



KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
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STATE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
REMARKS OF MAJOR GENERAL LEE TAFANELLI
FEBURARY 2, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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.

There are 42 men and women that serve in the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) and 222 men and women serving in various roles throughout the Department that contribute directly to the successful execution of the Department's mission.

There are over 7,000 Army and Air National Guard members across the state that remain ready to respond to disasters and emergencies here at home in service to the citizens of Kansas, while simultaneously remaining ready to respond to national level needs in the defense of our nation.

Currently, 86 Kansas National Guard (KSNG) Soldiers and Airmen are deployed around the world. Two-hundred and twenty-six Soldiers and Airmen have recently returned from various theaters of operations. The KSNG is preparing to deploy an additional 834 personnel within the next 365 days to various locations throughout the world.

As you know, 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.

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 our long-range strategic plan is the relocation of the Headquarters – Kansas National Guard (HQKSNG), the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center (KIFC) and KDEM to Forbes Field. Repositioning these capabilities 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

Senate Fed and State Committee

Date 2-1-17

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ensure Commission 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 that complement the Department's mission sets and allow for better control the state funding requirement.

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 more 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 \$431M 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.

The KIFC is the core of Kansas Homeland Security efforts. Fusion center predictive analysis provides vital information for early threat warning, prevention efforts, risk assessment, and for public officials charged with making sound policy decisions. It is seen as an unparalleled "model" center among federal and state programs for both effectiveness and protection of civil liberties.

The Department is currently analyzing systems-level threats to Kansas' critical infrastructure, working with private industry to improve cyber security, and partnering with key subject matter experts on identifying bio-threats to animal, plant and human health. We continue to work with other agencies, private industry and academia to develop fiscally sustainable methods to identify new and emerging threats, and deal with them in a state-based approach; independent of federal strategies. Kansas' ability to identify and fulfill its own analytical needs is, and will increasingly be, critical to the well-being of our citizens, government and critical infrastructure. The collaborative nature of its business model means that our state's security efforts are resilient in the face of funding and policy shifts affecting other programs.

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. Every day the employees of this Department strive to find innovative and increasingly more effective ways to provide military, homeland security and emergency management services. We remain committed to continually examining current and future challenges, developing high value actions within our control, and carrying out those actions in the most effective way possible.

I am incredibly proud of the men and women that serve in the Adjutant General's Department. I have seen them in the worst of conditions, facing terrible circumstances with a resilience and tenacity that would make you proud as a Kansan. They take their responsibilities seriously and have worked hard to accomplish many great things over the past year.

In 2016, STARBASE served 8,051 Kansas students, setting a new record for students attending STARBASE. Kansas STARBASE has received nearly \$53,657 in grants and donations to supplement the federal funding. Approximately 295 Guard members volunteered almost 5,425 hours to the STARBASE program.

Kansas and Armenia have worked together in the State Partnership Program for over 13 years. In 2016, Kansas continued its efforts in Armenia in the areas of noncommissioned officer development, Peacekeeping Brigade, mobile medical capability and civil/military emergency planning. The military cooperation events the KSNB operates with the Armenian military are designed to augment Armenia's capabilities and interoperability with United States and NATO forces.

With assistance from Kansas Army National Guard, the Armenian 12th Peacekeeping Brigade continued to develop their NATO Observational Capabilities Concept capabilities. In April, the team participated in the Saber Junction 16 exercise, where the Armenian forces demonstrated their ability to operate with NATO-led forces in a practical exercise that simulated the field conditions of a NATO mission.

More than 30 medical personnel from the 184th Intelligence Wing Medical Group integrated into hospitals in the Armenian cities of Gavar and Hrazdan for two weeks, providing medical assistance and expertise to the staff.

During August, Kansas hosted an Armenian Army platoon from the 12th Peacekeeping Brigade during the 891st Engineering Battalion's annual training at Fort Riley. The engagement allowed the Armenian Soldiers from the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade join with Guardsmen of the 772nd Engineer Company for a brief awards ceremony during an annual training exercise at Fort Riley in August to observe the engineers' training and participate alongside Kansas National Guard noncommissioned officers while receiving feedback on their use of the Armenian NCO Corps.

The Kansas National Guard Civil 73rd Support Team worked with Armenia's Ministry of Emergency Services to familiarize them with CST training methods relating to chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear threats, enhancing the Armenians' ability to identify and detect threats, which will increase their interoperability with NATO and better prepare them for a possible CBRN event.

Security personnel from the Adjutant General's Department joined with Topeka Police Department, Topeka Fire Department, American Medical Response, Capitol Police and the Kansas Highway Patrol in November to conduct an active shooter exercise at Nickell Armory in Topeka. During the exercise, participants rehearsed the actions required to stop a violent attacker and treat the injured.

The Kansas Army National Guard is a military organization of more than 5,000 authorized soldiers within Kansas. Headquartered at Forbes Field, Topeka, it has 38 armories and seven field maintenance shops, plus additional training and logistical support facilities throughout the state.

The Kansas Army National Guard has four brigade-level commands – 635th Regional Support Group, 69th Troop Command, 130th Field Artillery Brigade and 235th Regiment – and is the host state for the 35th Infantry Division.

The 35th Infantry Division participated in a joint warfighter exercise in conjunction with 1st Cavalry Division, assisted the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team by providing a higher command for their brigade-level warfighter exercise and continued building a partnership with 1st Infantry Division to support Total Army Integration.

The 635th Regional Support Group participated in Golden Coyote 2016 at Camp Rapid, South Dakota. The 635th RSG provided theater opening capability for the exercise, including providing Joint Reception, Staging, and Onward Movement, processing over 2,000 participants. The 1st battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment fielded a new helicopter, the UH-60M, the latest and most advanced version of the Army's Black Hawk helicopter. The 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment participated in the Multi-Echelon Brigade Training exercise in June as part of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team at Fort Hood, Texas. Training included platoon level gunnery qualification and platoon validation on evaluated tactical tasks. The 891st Engineer Battalion performed numerous horizontal and vertical projects at Salina, Junction City, Fort Riley, Topeka and Kansas City.

The 130th Field Artillery Brigade fielded the Mission Command System, fundamental to synchronizing communications and fire control with all higher and lower echelons to perform their war-time mission. The 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery completed 95 fire missions, safely firing more than 900 explosive projectiles, qualified 45 combat life savers and conducted several armory open houses. The 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery participated in a live-fire testing of an Army Tactical Missile System at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. The 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion conducted a Military Decision Making Process exercise and several subordinate units participated in various training events throughout the country. The KSNG conducted an activation ceremony in July for its newest battalion, the 997th Brigade Support Battalion. The ceremony was held at Old Fort Hays, in Hays, Kansas.

The 69th Troop Command supported two deployed units; the 137th Chaplain Detachment mobilized to Iraq, and Detachment 37, Operational Support Airlift mobilized to the Horn of Africa. Garden City recruiters, along with other elements of the Kansas Army National Guard, established a partnership with Garden City Community College, creating Task Force Broncbuster. This partnership is in direct support of the adjutant general's initiative to partner with community colleges throughout the state.

The 235th Regiment personnel and facilities hosted numerous events throughout fiscal year 2016, including Operations Resource/Sync Conference, Crucial Conversation Course, Unit Prevention Leader Course, six Periodic Health Assessments, Armenian Noncommissioned Officer Shadow Visit, Officer Candidate School graduation, the Adjutant General's Marksmanship Match, the Adjutant General's Army Physical Fitness Test, Assistant Adjutant General's Officer Professional Development, Operation Kid's Camp, STARBASE and Camp Konza.

The Kansas Air National Guard has more than 2,300 airmen. Headquartered at Forbes Field, Topeka, it has two main units: the 184th Intelligence Wing, Wichita; and the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Topeka. A detachment of the 184th Intelligence Wing operates Smoky Hill Weapons Range in Salina.

The 184th Intelligence Wing provides combat-ready/support units to three major commands and two combatant commands as well as domestic operations support to the state of Kansas. Comprised of five groups and a headquarters section, the wing performs seven distinct missions.

In September 2016, the wing commemorated its 75th anniversary with a celebration, unveiling a bench for the air park and dedicating the auditorium in Building 49 as Flanary Hall in honor of the wing's founding father, Lt. Paul Flanary. Flanary's son, retired Navy Captain Thomas Flanary, and other family members were on hand for the festivities. The wing also hosted the Secretary of the Air Force, the Honorable Deborah Lee James, for a visit in July.

The 184th Regional Support Group supported the 134th Air Control Squadron's deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Inherent Resolve, Resolute Support and Freedom's Sentinel, providing the air picture and communications for multiple airborne and ground units directly in support of the fight against ISIS. The 284th Air Support Operations Squadron conducted joint training with the Iowa National Guard, accomplishing 352 live fly missions totaling 768 controls. Detachment 1, Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range hosted multiple exercises with 1st Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade, preparing them for deployment to Southwest Asia.

The 184th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group conducted 24/7/365 intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations for combatant commands through one high-altitude and two medium-altitude combat air patrols. The 161st Intelligence Squadron analyzed 7,689 hours of full-motion video during 381 missions and produced 4,799 detailed intelligence products used by combat forces worldwide. The 184th Operations Support Squadron participated in Exercise Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base, providing subject matter expertise and completing 15 missions comprised on an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance package of seven aircraft and more than 100 personnel for each mission. The 184th Intelligence Support Squadron completed an unprecedented eight weapon system upgrades, two of which were major baseline overhauls to the geospatial information and signals intelligence operating systems.

The 184th Cyber Operations Group delivered freedom of action in and through cyberspace to advance Air National Guard and Air Force missions through its subordinate units, including the 177th Information Aggressor Squadron and the 299th Network Operations Security Squadron.

The 184th Mission Support Group provides critical support elements to keep the wing prepared for domestic and deployed operations. Subordinate units include the 184th Communications Flight, the 184th Security Forces Squadron, the 184th Logistics Readiness Squadron, the 184th Force Support Squadron, the 184th Civil Engineer Squadron and a Contracting Office.

The 184th Medical Group provides combat medical support for the United States Armed Forces and civilian domestic operations. The group also provides worldwide deployment medical readiness support for members of the 184th Intelligence Wing through ongoing physical exam screening, immunization, environmental, occupational health monitoring, self-aid training and wellness education.

The 190th Air Refueling Wing operates and maintains a fleet of 12 KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft. The wing is attached to Air Mobility Command under 18th Air Force, providing rapid global mobility airpower and deploying expeditionary forces in support of worldwide combat, contingency and humanitarian operations in addition to maintaining a nuclear deterrence tasking. The 190th ARW is comprised of four main groups, as well as the wing headquarters and the Comptroller Flight.

The 190th Operations Group is responsible for directing the flying and support operations for the 117th Air Refueling Squadron and the 190th Operations Support Squadron. Subordinate units include the 117th Air Refueling Squadron, the 190th Operations Support Squadron and the 127th Weather Flight.

The 190th Maintenance Group provides responsive, reliable and resourceful maintenance for the 190th Air Refueling Wing. The Group directs support operations for the 190th Maintenance Squadron, the 190th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and the 190th Maintenance Operations Flight, whose missions enable the maintenance of wing-assigned aircraft.

The 190th Mission Support Group provides oversight and operational support for the 190th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 190th Security Forces Squadron, 190th Civil Engineering Squadron, 190th Force Support Squadron, 190th Communications Flight and 127th Weather Flight. These six organizations support the wing and provide mission ready expeditionary combat support Airmen to the Air Force, Air National Guard and the Adjutant General's Department.

The 190th Medical Group supports domestic operations in times of natural or man-made disaster as well as supporting the federal mission of overseas engagement in either a humanitarian or war-fighter role.

The 190th Air Refueling Wing transported 1,737 passengers while flying 4,709 hours and transferring more than 2.4 million gallons of fuel during fiscal year 2016. The wing deployed 127 air crew, maintainers and support staff to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, in support of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. During the four month deployment, the wing directly supported the fight against the ISIS by providing combat aircraft with more than 1.4 million gallons of fuel. The wing flew a total of 298 sorties, logging 2,174 flight hours.

The wing deployed more than 100 Airmen to supplement the 506th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron as part of the Pacific Command Theater Support in Guam. The unit maintained a continuous presence in European Command supporting Operation Atlantic Resolve. The 190th Security Forces Squadron deployed 12 personnel for six months to the 387th Air Expeditionary Wing to provide security at the Air Force's aerial port of debarkation in the Central Command Area of Responsibility.

The 190th Medical Group was the lead planning unit for Tropic Care 2016 in Kauai, Hawaii. During the two-week mission, 190th MDG members joined nearly 300 Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Army National Guard, Navy and Navy Reserve members to treat more than 5,600 patients and perform more than 12,000 procedures for low-income residents. The humanitarian mission resulted in more than \$2.25 million in donated health care and 23,700 hours of training over the 12-day mission.

Governor Brownback signed a proclamation in March commemorating the 25th anniversary of the end of Operation Desert Storm. Several KSNG units were integral in the coalition effort. More than 500 members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing served and KC-135E tankers were stationed in Saudi

abia during Operation Desert Storm and its predecessor, Operation Desert Shield. Approximately, 200 members of the 170th Maintenance Company of Hays, Colby and Goodland also served during Desert Storm, providing general support maintenance for the thousands of tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles. Fifty-three other individual Kansas National Guard members volunteered, with 35 of them serving in Operation Desert Storm.

The KSNG supported emergency response to Neodesha in the aftermath of an explosion and fire at a chemical plant that temporarily contaminated the Fall River. Two reverse osmosis water purification units were deployed to Elk City Lake west of Neodesha to produce potable water that augmented drinking water supplies brought in from other sources.

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management is the branch of the Adjutant General's Department that provides mitigation advocacy, planning requirements and guidance, training and exercises, response coordination and administration of recovery programs for the civil sector of the state, regardless of the type of hazards. The Kansas Division of Emergency Management's organizational structure mirrors the functions that take place in the life cycle of emergency management: mitigation, prevention, preparedness, and response and recovery.

In 2016, KDEM formally received the StormReady® designation from the National Weather Service during a brief ceremony at the State Emergency Operations Center in Topeka. StormReady® is a nationwide community-preparedness program of the National Weather Service that uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather, from tornadoes to tsunamis.

KDEM saw 2016 begin with a request from Governor Brownback to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for disaster declaration as a result of flooding that occurred in Cherokee County in December of 2015. SBA provides low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters. In a declared disaster, SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace damaged or destroyed property, including real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets.

The governor signed a proclamation in February designating March 14-18 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Kansas. During the week, KDEM urged Kansans to check their emergency kit supplies for their home, office and vehicle, and review their emergency plans. Kansans were also encouraged to take part in the statewide tornado safety drill on March 15th.

A wildfire that began in Oklahoma in late March spread over night into Barber and Comanche counties in Kansas. Governor Brownback declared a State of Disaster Emergency, authorizing state resources to assist communities affected by the fires. The Kansas Forest Service and KDEM sent personnel to the scene to provide technical and tactical operation assistance. Before the fires were contained, the flames had spread into Harvey and Reno Counties. In all, more than 300,000 acres were burned. No injuries or fatalities were reported, but several homes were destroyed along with multiple outbuildings and an unknown number of livestock. Three bridges and one railroad trestle were damaged or destroyed.

The fires were eventually contained by civilian firefighters and KSNG crews flying Black Hawk helicopters using 600-gallon Bambi buckets, which dropped approximately 68,000 gallons of water on the flames. The state requested and was granted a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) for Barber and Comanche Counties.

Other round of wildfires broke out in northeast Kansas in early April. Wabaunsee, Riley and Pottawatomie Counties declared state of disaster emergencies. Governor Brownback issued a State of Disaster Emergency declaration for Barber, Comanche, Geary, Morton, Pottawatomie, Riley and Wabaunsee Counties. KDEM requested and was granted verbal approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a FMAG for the Wabaunsee County fire.

A severe storm system that affected much of the state blew into Kansas in late May, lingering for several days. The system spawned multiple tornadoes large hail and straight-line winds that downed trees, power poles and lines, and caused various levels of damages to outbuildings and rural homes. Governor Brownback visited Abilene in Dickinson County to inspect damage from a tornado that touched down north of the community. A request for a federal disaster declaration for a number of Kansas counties affected this storm system was denied by FEMA. Governor Brownback's original request for a federal declaration for the public assistance grant and hazard mitigation grant program funds statewide was denied, as was a subsequent appeal of this decision.

Governor Brownback signed a disaster proclamation for Greenwood County after a tornado struck the town of Eureka early in July. The tornado damaged approximately 50 residential homes and businesses. No fatalities or serious injuries were reported, but there were reports of multiple power outages in the county.

Governor Brownback requested and was granted a disaster declaration from the SBA for several Kansas counties affected by severe storms and floods that occurred in August and September. The disaster declaration made SBA assistance available in Butler, Cowley, Harper, Kingman, Sedgwick and Sumner counties in Kansas, as well as Grant and Kay counties in Oklahoma. A Disaster Loan Outreach Center was established at Cowley County College in Mulvane to facilitate loan applications.

Representatives from KDEM, first responders, and private organizations took part in Kansas Preparedness Day at the Kansas State Fair in September, showcasing their personnel and equipment and distributing emergency preparedness information.

KDEM marked Zombie Preparedness Month in October, reminding Kansans that if they are prepared for zombies, they're prepared for any emergency. During the month, KDEM partnered with other public safety agencies to provide information on emergency preparedness, including social media zombie preparedness challenges.

As Hurricane Matthew approached the Gulf Coast in October, Kansas played a major role in preparations to respond. Kansas was the 2016 coordinating state for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a multistate, mutual aid agreement that facilitates interstate assistance in response and recovery operations during a disaster. As such, Kansas was responsible for assisting in coordinating resources from other states to go to Florida or other storm-stricken states when needed.

Governor Brownback requested a presidential declaration for the federal Public Assistance program for an incident period in early to mid-September. Eleven counties were named in the request, which also asked for activation of the Hazard Mitigation Program statewide. In the request letter, the governor noted the personal and economic effects on the counties and cited the extent of damage to infrastructure in several counties. The request was granted.

remind Kansans to observe safety precautions when using household chemicals, the Technological Hazards Section of KDEM launched its annual chemical safety outreach campaign for November with a proclamation signing in late October. The proclamation designated November as "Read the Label First, Don't Mix Chemicals" Month in Kansas. During the month, KDEM partnered with a number of other state and local health agencies to provide information and educate the public on common household chemicals and household hazardous chemical safety.

KDEM activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to a partial activation level in late November to coordinate the state's response operations to an explosion and fire at a chemical plant in Neodesha that resulted in chemical contaminants entering the Fall River and moving downstream to the Verdigris River.

The Kansas Division of Health and Environment (KDHE) advised the water systems in Coffeyville, Independence and Neodesha to shut down water intake. KDEM coordinated supplies of bottled water to those communities and rural areas that received their water from those systems until KDHE determined the water sources were all clear of contaminants. All water systems were declared safe for use and the SEOC resumed normal operations by the end of November.

In December, personnel from KDEM and the Kansas National Guard took part in a statewide Foreign Animal Disease exercise. The exercise tested the capabilities and cooperative operations of state agencies to respond to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the United States with the goal of limiting its effects on the state's economy.

The men and women in the Adjutant General's Department are honored to serve their state and nation. We will continue to show this same focus and determination as we face the future together.

On behalf of the men and women in the Adjutant General's Department, thank you for your continued support and thank you for the great honor of allowing us to defend our home state and nation. We are 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 time and for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maj Gen Lee E. Tafanelli
Kansas Adjutant General
2 February 2017