

**STATEMENT BY**

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**and**

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**BEFORE THE**

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

**SECOND SESSION, 108<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

**ON DEPOT MAINTENANCE**

**JULY 20, 2004**

Chairman Hefley, Congressman Ortiz, and distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to share with you the tremendous work our Depots are performing in support of our nation's fight against Terrorism. Our depot workers' patriotism and selfless devotion to duty is as evident in Anniston and Red River as it is in Balad, Iraq, as they support warfighters around the world.

Depot maintenance is not a point on the ground, but a capability, supporting more than just the Army. For example, over 45 percent of Tobyhanna Army Depot's workload is non-Army. In Iraq, our skilled government employees and contractors are joining forces with Reserve Component units at Forward Repair Activities to bring an unprecedented level of support to the battlefield. At High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) and Heavy Equipment Transport System service centers located in Balad, we are performing critical maintenance designed to extend the operational life of equipment now driven in a single year at rates equivalent to multiple years of peacetime use. Our Tire Service Centers allow the Soldier or Marine to exchange an unserviceable tire assembly for a serviceable tire already mounted on a wheel, increasing both efficiency and safety for the Soldier.

The rapid manufacturing capability deployed to Kuwait is a great success story. It enables equipment fabrication from raw stocks. Our technicians fabricated weapon system mounts for wheeled vehicles, which allow Soldiers to place weapons on vehicles not previously equipped. As a result, Soldier lethality has been increased, as has our ability to protect the force.

The HMMWV armored door program is yet another success story from the industrial base. In very short order, we developed a production plan and marshaled the combined efforts of four depots, two arsenals, and one ammo plant to provide a solution that enhances Soldier survivability.

We have already begun the surge to meet the myriad of requirements involved in returning redeployed equipment to operational status. To illustrate, since October 1, 2003, our depots have repaired 182 Abrams tanks and 42 Bradley Fighting Vehicles. We project that we will complete 84 additional Abrams and 97 Bradleys by the end of this fiscal year, and present projections for FY05 are 179 and 361, respectively. HMMWV production in the depot has increased from 30 a month to 76, and we eventually expect to reach a goal of over 100 per month. We are prepared to increase that number to 200 per month when required.

Corpus Christi Army Depot has increased the production of T700 family of engines from 600 to 1,400 a year, and at Anniston Army Depot, we have increased .50 caliber machine gun production from 143 to 200 a month. The production of the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon has gone from a cold start to over 500 a month. We have retrograded and are repairing nearly 10,000 high priority items and approximately 35,000 other secondary items critical to sustain the warfighter.

Currently we are operating our depots at 30 percent above our FY02 baseline and project to be 40 percent above that baseline in FY05. We are postured and capable of additional increases as required. To meet these

demands, our depots have increased to two and three shifts in critical areas, including helicopter rotor blades and HMMWV armored door assemblies. To support this increase in workload for our depot workforce, we have, to date, hired over 700 additional government employees and have partnered with industry, bringing onboard an additional 450 contractors. We project that additional increases to this work force will be required to continue as we sustain our surge and increase efforts well after Iraq's stabilization and redeployment of forces.

Just as we are taking the support to the Soldier on the battlefield, we are also doing so here at home. In support of the Army's fleet of helicopters, we are repairing crash/battle damaged aircraft not only at Corpus Christi Army Depot, but also at some of the Army troop installations as well. Our crash/battle damaged aircraft numbers, which normally run in the single digits during peactime, have increased to 41 post-Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. There are 847 aircraft in our Special Technical Inspection and Repair (STIR) Program, which is decentralized and generally performed at the unit's location. This maintenance and inspection, which is vital to maintain the airworthiness of the fleet, is above what the organization can perform, but below the normal depot level.

We intend to continue to meet the increased demand with a two-pronged approach to repairing non-operational equipment. The RECAP Program, which has been in place for a number of years, will bring specifically identified pieces of the force's equipment to zero miles/zero hours, a like-new status. The RESET Program will return the bulk of the equipment to operational condition through

overhaul and repair of Delayed Desert Damage. Again, this level of increased work is expected for several years.

Timely release of funds has been particularly helpful in the uncertain environment of fighting the war on terrorism. We appreciate the Committee's support this past year and look forward to working with the Congress in supporting the return of high quality equipment to the warfighters in FY05 as we continue the fight against terrorism.

The Army Industrial Base meets the challenges presented and supports and sustains the joint warfighter. We are confident that we are on track in our efforts to continue this significant challenge and look forward to the opportunity to provide more details of our efforts. As always, we thank you for your continued support of our Armed Forces.