



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

1636 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1636

NOV 18 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

The National Guard plays a central role in the Security of our Nation as our units and service members form the Combat Reserve of the US Army and US Air Force. Our unique history of service to our States, territories, and the District of Columbia during domestic emergencies and to the Nation during times of war is a reflection of our strength as an organization. The National Guard also provides the connective tissue between our Military and almost every community in the United States.

We are citizen-Soldiers and Airmen whose diverse cultures, experiences and skills contribute to make our team successful in every endeavor. Our diversity also highlights that it is never a choice between diversity and high standards; rather, diversity is the tool that helps the National Guard reach and maintain the highest standards. Our inclusive culture provides every member a path toward success and an opportunity to reach their full potential. Diversity and Inclusion are also fundamental to the organizational readiness needs of our States and our country.

Beyond the tangible elements of diversity lie an even richer set of skills and capabilities which is the bedrock of the National Guard. We are a force which exemplifies a unique blend of civilian and military skillsets that enables the National Guard to conduct a wide-range of civil-military missions. Our rich ethnic backgrounds, civilian-acquired and professional skills combined with wide-ranging educational experiences, are just some of the attributes that define us as the men and women of the National Guard.

The ever-expanding military roles in the National Security of this nation, like Cyber, demand skills and attributes beyond those we may typically view as necessary for military service. The complexity of the environments in which we operate require dynamically led Soldiers and Airmen at every level. Leaders and service members must recognize and embrace the value that a diverse set of opinions and thoughts provide and create a climate of inclusiveness for all our members to succeed. The National Guard recognizes and is committed to ensuring diversity and inclusion remain critical components to achieving long term readiness throughout the fifty-four States and Territories.

Since 1636, the National Guard has remained vigilant in the service of this country. When you call on the National Guard, you're calling on America's best. We are an ever present, ready force. We will excel in whatever mission we're called to do because of the diversity of our force and those who lead them. As a full partner in the defense of this nation, we stand – Always Ready, Always There.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Lengyel", is positioned above the printed name.

JOSEPH L. LENGYEL
General, USAF
Chief, National Guard Bureau