

STATEMENT BY

GENERAL RICHARD A. CODY (Retired)  
31<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, US ARMY

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On 8 April 2008 I testified before this Committee as the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. Then, I was honored to represent the Nation's one million plus Soldiers, nearly 600,000 of whom were serving on Active Duty and over 250,000 of whom were deployed worldwide, most on 15 month combat tours, as I testified on issues critical to the current and long term readiness of the US Army. Today, I am again honored to testify before you as a private citizen, a retired Soldier, but one who continues to do what I can to support our outstanding Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen.

Many things have changed since April 2008. The surge in Iraq has ended and the Army is on course to withdraw the remaining 45,000 Soldiers by the end of the year; we have surged more forces into Afghanistan. The end strength growth of 65,000 additional Soldiers that we started in 2004 is complete, though now there is movement to reduce the Army's active duty strength by significant numbers. The Army has completed the restructuring of the force and just finished the largest BRAC, MILCON and global repositioning of our Army since World War II; all while fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today our US economy is in crisis mode, and probably most importantly, we have now been at war for over 10 years.

That said, many things have not changed. In 2008 I reported to you that the world we live in is exceedingly dangerous. Recent events in Southwest Asia, the Pacific, and the Arab Spring only highlight this fact, in spite of courageous efforts

of our service men and women. I also reported that our Army was out of balance, that repeated tours of 12 months in combat with only 13 months back before deploying again was putting tremendous stress on the All Volunteer Army and their Families. Today that stress is still there as the Army continues to deploy Soldiers on 12 month combat tours with less than 24 months between tours. I testified then that we were consuming our strategic readiness, people and equipment, with repeated tours in the harshest environments we have ever fought in. And most importantly, that our ability to man, equip and train for full spectrum operations somewhere else in the world, while fighting the current battles in Iraq and Afghanistan, was not possible.

In 2008 I reported that the cumulative impact of 6 years of Continuing Resolutions was causing significant problems within the Services' ability to run their programs, prepare our Soldiers for their next rotation and to reset the equipment; equipment that has been in combat for over 6 years. Today we enter another Fiscal Year with a CR while at war. It is one thing to have to deal with the uncertainty of our enemies and what new threat to prepare for. But it is entirely another to have to deal with uncertainty of year to year budgets and what resources will be available to sustain today's fight and reset an Army that has been at war for over 10 years for the next fight.

As Congress, the Pentagon and the Executive Branch wrestle with the budget reduction required by the Budget Control Act, the real questions with regard to

the Services' budget is simple: What missions do you want our military to continue to perform? What threats do you want our military to counter? What level of readiness do you want the military to sustain? History has taught us that we have not been very good at predicting where, when and against whom, the US military will have to fight to protect the national interest and the security of this nation and its 315 million citizens. Simply put, when we size, scope and resource our military for the peaceful and US friendly world we hope for, and not the dangerous, hostile and unpredictable world we live in, it is the American service men and women, and our nation, that we put at risk.

During my six years in the Pentagon as the Army's G-3 and as Vice Chief, the Congress has always responded to the critical needs of our force, especially during the early years of operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. It is well documented that we entered this Global War on terrorism woefully short of equipment, resulting from the defense budget cuts in the late 90's after the first Gulf War, especially for our Guard and Reserve forces, and Congress responded. That spirit of support by this Congress is still needed today.

Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.