

The Adjutant General's Department

***Testimony of Major General Mark Bartman, Adjutant General
for Ohio***

Senate Finance Corrections Sub-Committee

May 7, 2015

[Intro]

Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Brown, and members of the Finance Corrections Subcommittee: I am Major General Mark Bartman, Adjutant General for the State of Ohio. It is an honor to appear before you today.

The Ohio National Guard is comprised of more than 16,000 Soldiers and Airmen in 48 Army readiness centers, three training areas, four Air Wing bases, and six geographically separated units across the state, which encompasses more than 25,000 acres and 7.2 million square feet of building space.

The National Guard is the only branch of the military that has both a state and federal mission. In our state mission, we are prepared to respond at the call of the Governor during manmade or natural disasters. Through the Emergency Management

Assistance Compact (EMAC), the Ohio National Guard may also provide support to other states, and other states may assist Ohio should the need ever arise.

In our federal mission, we are prepared to respond as an operational force of the Army and Air Force to fight and win our nation's wars. Since 9/11, over 18,000 Soldiers and 6,000 Airmen of the Ohio National Guard have been deployed to 36 countries. We have a Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team that works with first responders. We field a Homeland Response Force equipped to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear high-yield explosive event. In the last two years we have conducted 55 State Partnership Program events with Hungary and the Republic of Serbia. We conduct Counterdrug operations in cooperation with State and local authorities.

[Transition to GRF Comments]

The budget before you will enable us to continue to meet our state and federal missions. It will allow us to recruit and retain Soldiers and Airmen, and to maintain the facilities that support the critical needs of a modern National Guard.

Our operating budget essentially supports three functions: personnel, utilities, and maintenance. Our proposed General

Revenue Fund appropriation is \$9.9 million per fiscal year, an increase of \$1.3 million dollars per year.

The \$1.3 million increase will fund the State portion of the firefighter program. The additional funding is necessary now due to changes in how the National Guard Bureau funds the program—changes imposed on the States in Federal fiscal year 2014. Prior to then, the established method was to fully reimburse the State for costs of employing firefighters. This approach allowed for variations in State pay and benefit structures. In fiscal year 2014 the National Guard Bureau—without consultation from the States—adopted a uniform cost standard. The new standard made any cost exceeding the model unallowable for reimbursement regardless of State law. This approach is the direct cause of our need for additional funds to keep the firefighter program whole. We have engaged directly with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau for redress without result. Funding shortfalls to the firefighter program directly impact Ohio's three flying wings' ability to execute their missions, including the Aerospace Control Alert mission in Toledo, and their ability to provide firefighter support to municipalities. In Fiscal Year 14, Ohio National Guard firefighters from Toledo, Mansfield, and Rickenbacker responded to 51 municipal calls for assistance.

This budget will permit us to operate a sufficient facilities maintenance program and maintain personnel and utilities support. The state commitment preserves millions of federal dollars coming into the state. Commitment of federal dollars is based on the ability of the State to meet its share of the collaborative obligations. If our state funding was not available, we would lose federal dollars at the rate of 3 federal dollars for each state dollar.

A portion of the \$9.9 million dollar General Revenue Fund matches the Federal funds provided through cooperative agreements, projected at \$42 million Federal dollars per year in Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. From the investment the State made in the Ohio National Guard in Fiscal Year 2014, a total of \$616 million dollars in Federal funds were brought into the State, which generated \$10 million dollars in income tax revenue for the State of Ohio. In other words, the Ohio National Guard pays for itself.

The budget includes line items for dedicated purpose funds which are primarily self-sufficient and self-sustaining activities, including lodging programs at the Camp Perry Joint Training Center. These funds are a necessary part of our total budget.

You will also find funding in the Board of Regents budget for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, the National Guard's

most critical recruiting tool. In the last biennium, over 11,000 scholarships were awarded. The program provides 100% tuition for Ohio National Guard members to attend state schools. If the Guard member chooses to attend a state private institution, we pay the institution at the rate of the average tuition of state schools.

But my purpose today goes beyond informing you of the tremendous return on investment the Adjutant General's Department brings to the State. Rather, I would like to take a few moments to talk to you about the added value the Department brings in actively supporting the safety and security of Ohio and our rise as a center of innovation, technology, and job creation.

To that end I would like to give you additional details on three initiatives that are well underway within the Department. They are the 4/72 Project, Cyber missions, and Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

[Transition to 4/72]

I am going to start with an initiative you may already be aware of; it's called the 4/72 Project.

The Ohio National Guard has always responded to the Governor's call to aid the citizens of Ohio. We have found,

however, that processes continually need to be updated to create better coordination among state agencies, counties, local communities, and the private sector.

The Ohio National Guard was immediately onboard as a partner when the Department of Public Safety approached us about the 4/72 Project. Its objective is to create a nimble emergency response continuum focused on the State's ability to begin providing for the immediate basic life needs of constituents impacted by an emergency or a disaster.

In coordination with state, county, local and private sector partners, our goal is to begin moving essential resources within four hours of an incident, and sustain the effort for 72 hours.

First, we have created packages of equipment and personnel that are tailored for various emergency situations familiar to Ohio, including snow, floods, tornados, and most recently water emergencies. We are working to gain pre-approval to use these packages under State Active Duty. Commanders at all levels will ensure that the equipment needed to support Ohio's citizens is ready and our Soldiers and Airmen are trained.

The second aspect of our partnership with the Department of Public Safety is to provide supporting information for a

comprehensive Logistics and Capability Playbook for State Policymakers. Our contribution resides in National Guard capabilities that we can bring to bear in emergency situations. The Department of Public Safety will merge our capabilities with other state resources for a comprehensive Playbook. This playbook will be available for use by all state agency heads, governor's staff and Ohio public-private partnership members to ensure decision-makers are operating from the same base of understanding. As the product of collaboration, the Logistics and Capability Playbook will feature maps to visually depict collective capabilities and resources, including vital life-sustaining items such as water, food and shelter.

On March 27th we delivered our portion of the Playbook to the Department of Public Safety.

We also want to leverage specific skill sets depending on the situation. Many of our Ohio National Guard members have specialized backgrounds, including doctors, lawyers, first responders, engineers, and cyber experts. We are identifying these specialized personnel and placing them on a priority call list. The list enhances the ability of the total 4/72 team to reach out and ensure that we can respond with the right people at the right time.

[Transition to Cyber]

Of course you expect the Ohio National Guard to be fully integrated in the safety and security of Ohioans. In contrast, you may be surprised to learn how we are contributing to the rise of Ohio as a center of excellence in technology, and creating a more robust environment for high-tech job creation.

Which brings me to the second initiative I'd like to tell you about: bringing Federal National Guard Cyber Missions to Ohio.

On Tuesday, February 24th, the National Guard Bureau selected Ohio for a 14 member share of the new Army National Guard Cyber Protection Team, along with partner states Michigan and Indiana.

Ohio also has a request before the National Guard Bureau for an Air National Guard Cyber Operations Squadron. The Cyber Operations Squadron is a 71 member unit.

The mission of these units is to defend and protect Department of Defense computer networks against adversarial attacks.

These missions are a step in the right direction in safeguarding the safety and security of Ohioans. This year is expected to see

42.8 million cyber attacks, roughly 117,339 attacks each day, a study from consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers found. While the primary duty of our new units is to protect Department of Defense networks, they can also be tasked to respond in case of emergencies. Until the selection of the Army National Guard Cyber Protection Team, FEMA Region 5—Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota—had no National Guard units tasked to protect DoD networks. If Ohio is selected for an Air National Guard Cyber Operations Squadron, the region will gain even greater capability.

Selection processes for these new missions are incredibly competitive because of what it means not only for the Federal mission, but for what the State gains as well.

When these missions come to Ohio, they mean additional high-tech positions that offer invaluable training and experiences for recruits within the State.

The majority of these positions are for traditional Guardsmen, who work for us during drill weekends and annual training. The training and experience they gain in their military role is translatable to the civilian workforce, which will certainly benefit as a result.

When these high-tech next generation missions come to Ohio they also contribute to the growing information technology community of excellence in the State. This is because, beyond the jobs we fill, we will inevitably partner with education, industry, and research entities in an effort train, grow, and improve our own processes.

This means that students, educators, researchers, and professionals from the spectrum of businesses that utilize information technology security professionals will have the opportunity to work with us—and vice versa. This interaction is mutually beneficial and creates an exciting total atmosphere for work and innovation.

This environment creates opportunities for the jobs of the future, encouraging our young people to receive their education in Ohio, and stay in Ohio afterward because they are excited about the opportunities they have here.

[Transition to UAS]

Cyber missions aren't the only area of new technology and innovation we are involved in. Aviation is also undergoing a transformation in the development of UAS, or Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

For several years the Ohio Air National Guard has had a UAS mission at Springfield, where our pilots and crews remotely fly the MQ-1 Predator. However, the aircraft they fly are not located in Ohio.

Recently the Ohio Army National Guard has successfully brought the RQ-11B Raven mission to Ohio. The Raven is a lightweight hand-launched UAS designed for rapid deployment and used for low-altitude surveillance and reconnaissance.

The Raven has potential for use in life-saving emergency situations, such as locating survivors in a disaster area. Current regulatory guidance prohibits the use of UAS for domestic disaster response unless there is no other alternative manned aircraft available, and the use is approved by the FAA and Secretary of Defense beforehand.

The Raven is also part of a larger strategy to create a more robust UAS environment in Ohio. We have a long-term project working to be able to use the Military Operating Area in southern Ohio as an area for training and development in UAS.

In this effort we have partnered with the Ohio/Indiana Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center and the Air Force Research Lab. As a group, we are focused on creating an air corridor between

Wilmington and the Military Operating Area that will allow ongoing use of UAS within Ohio.

Success in this area is dependent on effective interaction with the Federal Aviation Administration to approve the corridor. In the balance, however, is a potential public-private partnership within which the Ohio National Guard could train in the use of the Raven, Air Force Research Lab could locally test the designs it is developing, and the Ohio/Indiana Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center can begin a new era of promoting civilian UAS enterprise and innovation.

This is all prospective and there are legal and regulatory obstacles to be overcome. If we are successful, however, the combination of governmental, research, and private sector collaboration has the potential to attract the talent which can contribute significantly to the rise of Ohio as a center of innovation and growth.

[Transition to Conclusion]

Everything I have described to you is well under way. I am honored to be here today representing the Adjutant General's Department. We are contributing to a safer and more secure

Ohio, and taking strides to build up Ohio as a center of innovation, technology and growth.

Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Brown, members of the Sub-Committee, I again thank you for the invitation to share the great ideas and work of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Ohio National Guard.