

1  
2 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
4 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

5  
6 THE MAIN CAPITOL  
7 ROOM 140  
8 HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

9  
10 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012  
11 9:30 A.M.

12  
13 PUBLIC HEARING  
14 DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY  
15 AND  
16 VETERAN AFFAIRS

17 BEFORE:

18 HONORABLE WILLIAM F. ADOLPH, JR., CHAIRMAN  
19 HONORABLE JOSEPH F. MARKOSEK  
20 HONORABLE JOHN BEAR  
21 HONORABLE MARTIN T. CAUSER  
22 HONORABLE JIM CHRISTIANA  
23 HONORABLE GARY DAY  
24 HONORABLE GORDON DENLINGER  
25 HONORABLE BRIAN L. ELLIS  
HONORABLE MAUREE GINGRICH  
HONORABLE GLEN R. GRELL  
HONORABLE TOM KILLION  
HONORABLE DAVID R. MILLARD  
HONORABLE T. MARK MUSTIO  
HONORABLE BERNIE O'NEILL  
HONORABLE MIKE PEIFER  
HONORABLE SCOTT PERRY

1 CONTINUED:  
HONORABLE SCOTT A. PETRI  
2 HONORABLE TINA PICKETT  
HONORABLE JEFFREY P. PYLE  
3 HONORABLE MARIO M. SCAVELLO  
HONORABLE CURTIS G. SONNEY  
4 HONORABLE MATTHEW D. BRADFORD  
HONORABLE MICHELLE F. BROWNLEE  
5 HONORABLE H. SCOTT CONKLIN  
HONORABLE PAUL COSTA  
6 HONORABLE DEBERAH KULA  
HONORABLE TIM MAHONEY  
7 HONORABLE MICHAEL H. O'BRIEN  
HONORABLE CHERELLE L. PARKER  
8 HONORABLE JOHN P. SABATINA, JR.  
HONORABLE STEVE SAMUELSON  
9 HONORABLE MATTHEW SMITH  
HONORABLE GREG VITALI  
10 HONORABLE RONALD G. WATERS

11 ALSO PRESENT:  
HONORABLE RICK SACCONI  
12 HONORABLE JULIE HARHART  
HONORABLE DARYL D. METCALFE  
13 HONORABLE THOMAS P. MURT  
HONORABLE ROBERT GODSHALL  
14 HONORABLE KATE HARPER  
HONORABLE MARCIA HAHN  
15 HONORABLE JOSEPH T. HACKETT  
HONORABLE MARK M. GILLEN  
16 HONORABLE SUE HELM  
HONORABLE LYNDA SCHLEGEL CULVER  
17 HONORABLE RICHARD STEVENSON  
HONORABLE GENE DIGIROLAMO  
18 HONORABLE CHRIS SAINATO  
HONORABLE WILLIAM C. KORTZ, II  
19 HONORABLE VANESSA LOWERY  
HONORABLE PAMELA A. DeLISSIO  
20 HONORABLE BABETTE JOSEPHS  
HONORABLE DOM COSTA  
21 HONORABLE BRYAN BARBIN  
HONORABLE THOMAS R. CALTAGIRONE  
22 HONORABLE MARK LONGIETTI  
HONORABLE DAN FRANKEL  
23 HONORABLE HARRY READSHAW  
EDWARD NOLAN, MAJORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
24 MIRIAM FOX, MINORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

25 BRENDA S. HAMILTON, RPR, NOTARY PUBLIC AND REPORTER

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MAJOR GENERAL WESLEY E. CRAIG  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERAN AFFAIRS

7

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Good morning,  
3 everyone. I'd like to call to order the House  
4 Appropriations budget hearing. Today with us is  
5 Major General Wesley Craig.

6 Good morning, sir.

7 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Good morning.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thanks for joining  
9 us. We will be -- we will be discussing the veterans  
10 and military general appropriation budget, and I'd  
11 just like to ask everyone, members and guests, if  
12 they would put their BlackBerries on silent or  
13 vibrate, it would be appreciative. And we're going  
14 to go around the room and introduce ourselves.

15 My name is Bill Adolph. I'm the  
16 Republican chair of the House Appropriations  
17 Committee and I represent the 165th District in  
18 Delaware County. To my left.

19 EXEC. DIR. NOLAN: Ed Nolan, executive  
20 director, Republican Appropriations Committee.

21 MR. CLARK: Dan Clark, chief counsel,  
22 Republican Appropriations Committee.

23 REP. GINGRICH: Representative Mauree  
24 Gingrich, Lebanon County. Good morning.

25 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Good morning.

1 REP. GRELL: Good morning, general.  
2 Glen Grell, 87th District, Cumberland County.

3 REP. PERRY: Good morning, sir. Scott  
4 Perry, northern York and southern Cumberland  
5 Counties.

6 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Sir.

7 REP. PEIFER: Good morning. Mike  
8 Peifer, Pike, Wayne, and Monroe Counties.

9 REP. PETRI: Scott Petri, Bucks County.

10 REP. O'NEILL: Good morning. Bernie  
11 O'Neill from Bucks County.

12 REP. PYLE: Jeff Pyle, 60th Legislative  
13 District, Armstrong and Indiana.

14 Good morning, general.

15 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Good morning.

16 REP. DAY: Good morning. Gary Day from  
17 Lehigh and Berks County, 187th District.

18 REP. KILLION: Tom Killion, Delaware and  
19 Chester Counties.

20 REP. PICKETT: Tina Pickett, Bradford,  
21 Sullivan and Susquehanna Counties.

22 REP. CAUSER: Good morning. Marty  
23 Causer, McKean, Potter, and Cameron Counties.

24 REP. DENLINGER: Good morning. Gordon  
25 Denlinger, eastern Lancaster County.

1                   REP. WATERS: Ron Waters, Philadelphia  
2 and Delaware Counties.

3                   REP. VITALI: Greg Vitali, Delaware  
4 County.

5                   REP. MARKOSEK: Good morning. Joe  
6 Markosek, chairman -- Democratic Chairman of the  
7 House Appropriations Committee from Allegheny and  
8 Westmoreland County.

9                   EXEC. DIR. FOX: Hi. Miriam Fox,  
10 executive director, House Appropriation Committee,  
11 Democrats.

12                   REP. SAINATO: Representative Chris  
13 Sainato. I'm the Democratic Chairman of the House  
14 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness  
15 Committee. I represent parts of Lawrence and a small  
16 section of Beaver County.

17                   REP. KULA: Good morning.

18                   MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Good morning.

19                   REP. KULA: Deberah Kula, from Fayette  
20 and Westmoreland Counties, 52nd District.

21                   REP. O'BRIEN: Good morning, general.  
22 Mike O'Brien, Philadelphia.

23                   REP. PAUL COSTA: Good morning.  
24 Welcome. Paul Costa from Allegheny County.

25                   CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you, members.



1 motto is Always Ready and Always There, and that  
2 certainly has been the case for the past ten years.  
3 As many of you know, we deployed 30,000 of our  
4 members of the Army and Air National Guard out of the  
5 19,000 assigned overseas in the past ten years.

6 Their record of accomplishments has been  
7 absolutely remarkable. We have -- we've done  
8 everything from peacekeeping, security operations,  
9 counter-insurgency operations, and close combat.

10 We've unfortunately saw -- our losses  
11 have been heavy. More than any other state's  
12 National Guard, Pennsylvania has lost 51 killed in  
13 action and hundreds more wounded in action. Their  
14 courage and dedication is an inspiration to all of us  
15 who continue to serve, and to you as well I'm sure.

16 In addition, over these past ten years,  
17 we've responded to scores of calls from the Governor  
18 for natural disasters. This year alone we've had  
19 2,644 Pennsylvania National Guardsmen performing  
20 15,474 days of state active duty, most of which were  
21 dedicated to relief for Hurricane Irene and Tropical  
22 Storm Lydia.

23 When you're one of the best, you're one  
24 of the busiest, and that continues for the  
25 Pennsylvania Guard. We're looking at a mobilization



1 this fall of 1,600 from the 55th Armored Barricade  
2 Combat Team in the eastern part of the state and  
3 destination is Kuwait. Most likely also followed by  
4 mobilizations of the 1st Battalion 104's Attack  
5 Aviation headquartered in Johnstown for a time on  
6 duty in Afghanistan. And two companies of the 2nd  
7 104 Aviation from the central part of the state, same  
8 duty station.

9 On the federal budget side, really good  
10 news for the Army National Guard. It's essentially  
11 the same as it was last year, and the strength  
12 remains nationally of 358,000. Pennsylvania remains  
13 at the 15,250. We are already over strength in that  
14 area and positioned to grow our force even more.

15 There is, however, as everybody knows,  
16 serious concern on the side of the Air National  
17 Guard. The strength nationally will be reduced from  
18 106 to 101,000 and more than 200 Air National Guard  
19 aircraft will be sent to the bone yard.

20 The Air Force has elected to take their  
21 reductions on the back of the Reserve component,  
22 unlike the Army which is taking it out of the active  
23 component.

24 And, of course, it doesn't make sense to  
25 me, considering the Reserve component is the most

1 cost effective part of the Defense department.

2 In Pennsylvania that will mean reduction  
3 of four KC 135 aircraft from the 171st Air Refueling  
4 Wing in Pittsburgh and a loss of approximately 200  
5 airmen. Reduction of the force, most of the force is  
6 at the Johnstown Air Traffic Control Tower. There  
7 will, however, be good news in the eastern part of  
8 the state with the addition of a ground control group  
9 that will be controlling the flight of a R -- RQ-9  
10 Reaper drone aircraft.

11 And, finally, not Air National Guard,  
12 but Air Force Reserve, the Air Force wants to close  
13 the 911th Air Lift Wing completely and disband the  
14 base at the Pittsburgh Air Reserve station.

15 And, finally, on the veterans homes, we  
16 are challenged to provide the same or better service  
17 with the same or less funding. Due to hard work from  
18 my Deputy for Veterans Affairs, Deputy of  
19 Administration, the budget director, and the -- we've  
20 established best practices that we found in four of  
21 our homes and rolled them into the other two homes.

22 We found two homes out of the six were  
23 exceeding the average cost per care by a large amount  
24 per resident. So by taking their best practices and  
25 moving it to the practice of all the homes, we've



1                   CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: That being said, being  
2 a -- a bean counter by profession and you take a look  
3 at the Department of Military Affairs' budget  
4 request, and there's -- there's two -- two line items  
5 that are in deep red for this year.

6                   One is the veterans home, about 6.7  
7 percent decrease, \$6.2 million, and then veterans  
8 assistance, \$404,000, a hundred percent decrease.

9                   And you talk about the best practices,  
10 and obviously it -- it -- it sounds good, but can you  
11 give us a little bit more detail?

12                  MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Sure.

13                  CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Because I'm sure we're  
14 going to be hearing from our residents regarding --  
15 when they see a decrease in the -- in the Governor's  
16 proposed budget. And I'm sure you've already heard  
17 from many of them as well

18                  MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Yes, sir. Glad to  
19 address that issue.

20                  When we -- when we took a look at our  
21 budget, we realized, as I mentioned in my opening  
22 comments, we had two homes that were operating  
23 considerably above the average cost for all the other  
24 homes when analysis was done at cost per resident.

25                  So why is that? We drilled down on

1 that, and then we came up with a series of cost  
2 savings measures. Overtime control, we had a \$5  
3 million expense for overtime control. So we can cut  
4 that in half or more.

5           Took a look at the way we do drug  
6 costs. When you have 1,500 residents, all under  
7 various types of medications, we in the past have  
8 been holding a 30-day supply for every resident.  
9 They're all on multiple medications. And when their  
10 medication would change, we ended up throwing out  
11 part of the medication.

12           So we reduced what we carry on hand and  
13 that has saved us a significant amount of money.

14           We worked very closely with the  
15 Department of General savings -- General -- General  
16 Services and identified statewide contracts where we  
17 can beat that price on a local vendor.

18           They've agreed and done it a number of  
19 times already this year and it made -- forced that  
20 statewide contract to meet the price of the local  
21 vendor or they would lose the ability to provide  
22 services to us. That resulted in several hundred  
23 thousand dollars.

24           We're also dealing with furloughs, as  
25 I'm sure everyone here has heard. 67 positions will

1 be eliminated. By the time we work all through that,  
2 I also have 41 vacancies in the home. So we'll  
3 probably layoff eventually somewhere between 40 and  
4 50 people and they -- all of them in support staff.  
5 None of them are in medical staff.

6 So through these series of things and  
7 others we're able to find -- we're looking at  
8 contracting some medical care, building upon success  
9 we've had for physical therapy care, and so we --  
10 we've been able to accomplish these savings in this  
11 budget year already, because this budget year we  
12 started enacting this and we already saved the  
13 Commonwealth close to \$7 million this budget year.  
14 So I know we can do \$6 million next year.

15 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Well, there's no one  
16 sitting at this table, on either side of the item --  
17 of the aisle that would like to see decreases for the  
18 veterans, these men and women that have served our  
19 country.

20 So if we're hearing from you and you're  
21 saying that this can be worked out and done  
22 efficiently and the quality of care continue for our  
23 veterans, it's -- it's -- it's in your hands.

24 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Sir, I get that.  
25 I understand that. I'm a veteran myself and that

1 is -- I've got to know many, many, many veterans back  
2 when I was serving before, and this is really  
3 important to us.

4 We also have a lot of help to let us  
5 know if we're doing a good job or not. Last year our  
6 veterans homes were inspected a total of 120 times  
7 between the L & I's, the local county L & I's, the  
8 Department of Health, Department of Veterans Affairs,  
9 the federal one, and DPW.

10 So we get a lot of help. We passed  
11 every inspection, and that is our absolute intent to  
12 continue to render that level of care we've always  
13 had. And we're quite proud of our satisfaction rate,  
14 which is much higher, ten percent higher than what  
15 you'd found in commercial for-profit homes.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: You know, when you're  
17 able to cut costs and find savings in certain areas,  
18 those that need it the most get better care and  
19 that's what we're finding out all throughout the  
20 budget process.

21 So thank you for taking care of the  
22 veterans and watching our tax dollars.

23 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: You're quite  
24 welcome.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Chairman Markosek.

1 REP. MARKOSEK: Thank you, Chairman.

2 Welcome, general.

3 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Thank you.

4 REP. MARKOSEK: And we really appreciate  
5 all the good work that you do.

6 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Thank you.

7 REP. MARKOSEK: I don't have any  
8 specific questions. I do have a couple of  
9 announcements for the information of the membership.

10 Representative Readshaw and  
11 Representative Bill Kortz from Allegheny County are  
12 here, as well as Representative Mark Longietti from  
13 Mercer County, Representative Pam DiLissio from  
14 Philadelphia, and Representative Tom Caltagirone from  
15 Berks County is also here.

16 And I don't have a direct question but,  
17 Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you I think  
18 Representative Costa will ask my question for me.  
19 Thank you.

20 REP. PAUL COSTA: Is that okay?

21 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Representative, that's  
22 fine.

23 REP. PAUL COSTA: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Chairman.

25 Good morning, Major General. How are



1 you?

2 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Fine.

3 REP. PAUL COSTA: That's good. The 911  
4 closure in southwestern Pennsylvania, we've been told  
5 that it could be 90 to a hundred million dollar  
6 economic impact to our region when they close that.

7 And it's my understanding because -- if  
8 they do close that, it's also going to have a  
9 reduction in the 171st Refueling which could be  
10 another 18 to \$20 million economic hit to our region,  
11 which, as you know, and all of us know, we can't  
12 afford those kind of hits to our region.

13 Can you tell us what's happening with  
14 that and if we're going to be able to make any  
15 progress to get those back?

16 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: I certainly hope  
17 so, yes. The Air Force has decided that they are  
18 dealing with a budget reduction demanded by Congress,  
19 and so they have several ways to go. They can reduce  
20 the Reserve component or they could reduce the active  
21 component.

22 The active component costs about three  
23 quarters as much -- three times greater to run an  
24 airman -- pay an airman in the active component,  
25 operate an airplane in the active component, than it

1 does in the Reserve component. So for some reason  
2 the Air Force has decided to take a good deal of  
3 their reductions on the back of the Reserve  
4 component, which is not the most cost effective way  
5 to gain efficiencies, in my opinion and many other's  
6 opinions, including the former Chief of Staff of the  
7 Air Force Ronald Fogleman, who has been -- has  
8 published several articles that says they should go  
9 the other way and save money by reducing the active  
10 component.

11           You're quite right, the 911th, they'll  
12 lose all seven aircraft, almost 1,200 military and  
13 300 full-time positions when they close that base.

14           I briefed the Governor fully on this.  
15 He doesn't agree with it. I talked to Representative  
16 Murphy and both Senators and we'll continue to follow  
17 up with them. They're not -- they don't agree with  
18 it as well.

19           So we will have some -- some written  
20 documentation that will basically strengthen our  
21 case, I think, to all the Congressional delegation,  
22 which is where the fight has to be, and I'm advising  
23 the Congressional delegation to put into law a floor,  
24 a strength floor for the Air National Guard, which  
25 says you can't take reductions and we're going --

1 we're going to tell you, Mr. Air Force, that you must  
2 keep it to 106,000. If they do that, that will stop  
3 it for this year.

4 In addition, the National Governors  
5 Association has come on line and objected to this  
6 reduction because it impacts the governors' ability  
7 to conduct homeland defense. Because we -- at least  
8 on the Air Guard, we use the 171st all the time at  
9 home in defense.

10 And also all Adjutant Generals signed a  
11 letter last week objecting to this as well.

12 So there are powerful forces at work in  
13 Washington, D.C. That's where the battle has to be  
14 fought. We'll continue to push that. I will  
15 personally, as well as my Deputy Ferraro who is with  
16 me today and Major General Sischo, and we'll continue  
17 to keep you updated.

18 But I -- it makes no sense to me. You  
19 could park -- for instance, they want to park four of  
20 the airplanes from the 171st. If they parked one on  
21 active duty, we'd be able to continue to fly those  
22 four. So that gives you an expandable capability  
23 when the nation needs it where as opposed -- as  
24 opposed to parking four of them and then you can't  
25 expand.

1                   So we will continue to fight that fight,  
2                   arguing the cost effectiveness of the Guard and  
3                   Reserve.

4                   REP. PAUL COSTA: Well, I appreciate  
5                   that, major. Because we've -- we've all -- the  
6                   members in southwestern Pennsylvania all contacted  
7                   our U.S. Senators and our Congressmen, but I think  
8                   the message, if it's coming from you and from  
9                   Governor Corbett, I think it has a little bit more  
10                  pop to it. And I appreciate you guys are fighting  
11                  for us.

12                  MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Well, I'll keep  
13                  after those Air Force guys.

14                  REP. PAUL COSTA: Okay.

15                  MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: They're a tough  
16                  bunch down there in D.C.

17                  REP. PAUL COSTA: Thank you very much,  
18                  Major General.

19                  MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Thank you.

20                  REP. PAUL COSTA: Thank you very much,  
21                  Mr. Chairman.

22                  CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,  
23                  representative.

24                  I'd like to acknowledge the presence of  
25                  two members of the Appropriations Committee that have

1 joined us, Representative Jim Christiana from Beaver  
2 County and Representative Curt Sonney from Erie  
3 County.

4 The next question will be by Mauree  
5 Gingrich.

6 REP. GINGRICH: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 Welcome, neighbors. I'm talking about  
9 Indiantown Gap, of course.

10 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Oh.

11 REP. GINGRICH: Delighted to have you  
12 here, you, General, your team and the veterans that  
13 took their time to join us today. Thank you so much  
14 for being here.

15 I do want to talk about something close  
16 to home specifically, and you did allude to it,  
17 general, at Indiantown Gap. Modest increase in the  
18 budget that is geared towards an increase in  
19 security.

20 Don't tell us more than we're allowed to  
21 know, of course; but what is your plan? Can you give  
22 us any specifics? Because honestly, I'll tell you, I  
23 do hear a lot about that, living -- it's in Lebanon  
24 County.

25 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Uh-huh.

1                   REP. GINGRICH: And, of course, that's  
2 where I live and serve. So I talk to a lot of people  
3 involved as working and living in the area.

4                   Do you have any specifics that you can  
5 share with us, what measures you might be taking  
6 specifically and what challenges you have? I know  
7 geographically it's an interesting place because it's  
8 gorgeous, number one.

9                   MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: It is.

10                  REP. GINGRICH: Many parts of it are  
11 open to the community, which we all use, with the  
12 lake and the hiking and the spread of the place.

13                  So tell us a little bit more  
14 specifically about that, would you, please?

15                  MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Yes, ma'am. It is  
16 17,000 acres, about 200 miles of trails and roads.  
17 It is completely unsecured on the major out --  
18 exterior perimeters. So anybody can come on the  
19 base.

20                  We do have some areas, the airfield, the  
21 equipment concentration sites, and one or two  
22 barracks areas that are behind fences. That's it.

23                  But it is really open to -- my biggest  
24 concern is terrorists such as what happened in Fort  
25 Hood. Because even when our soldiers are there, yes,

1 they carry weapons and, yes, they have bullets, only  
2 when they're on the rifle range. When they're back  
3 in containment areas they don't have any of those  
4 things. When they're back to what we call soldier  
5 ready and processed and getting ready for deployment  
6 overseas, just like what happened in Fort Hood, they  
7 have no weapons with them.

8           So to secure this large area that also  
9 puts through about 150,000 people in training every  
10 year, I have a total State Police force of eight.

11           Here in the Capitol complex, the Capitol  
12 Police force is 102. Mechanicsburg Depot, the  
13 military depots, the Army War College have somewhere  
14 between 50 to 80 full-time policemen, and they're  
15 behind a complete barrier with completely controlled  
16 access.

17           They're all funded by the federal  
18 government. We are a state institution, so that the  
19 police force has to come -- has to be funded by the  
20 state.

21           In addition to my eight full-time police  
22 force, I have about 12 security guards, which are  
23 contract security guards, carry radios and act as  
24 kind of a town watch, and they're very valuable. And  
25 I have currently three military policemen which we

1 steal from Army funds and use to amplify the police  
2 force.

3 This budget allows me to hire, if it  
4 goes through as planned, allows me to hire eight  
5 part-time policemen which will amplify my eight  
6 full-time policemen, which will be a big help on the  
7 way to go.

8 I'd like to obviously grow that force to  
9 close to 18 to 20 by the time we're done, and I will  
10 work with the Governor's office and the committees  
11 here in the House and the Senate to do that. But  
12 that will help a lot to begin with.

13 We're also looking at where we can set  
14 up control perimeters. Maybe not the whole post but  
15 where we have large concentrations of people who work  
16 there. I have about 1,800 people who work there  
17 every day, five days a week.

18 So we're looking for a place that we can  
19 put behind barriers to make it a little safer. So  
20 between exterior barriers, increase in police force,  
21 which this budget allows, that will be a --  
22 definitely good start.

23 REP. GINGRICH: I may sound naive, but  
24 that hardly seems like enough to battle the possible  
25 threats that are out there, and that's a lot to do



1 with two percent. So I really do commend you with  
2 your ability to do so.

3 I think most of us understand and share  
4 your concerns about safety for those on the base.

5 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Right.

6 REP. GINGRICH: And certainly all of us  
7 in this part -- this part of the state and in the  
8 country. So for anyone who thinks you have a simple  
9 and easy job they are incorrect.

10 Thank you so much for all you do.

11 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Thank you, ma'am.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,  
13 representative.

14 Representative Mike O'Brien of  
15 Philadelphia.

16 REP. O'BRIEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Good morning, again, general.

18 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: How are you?

19 REP. O'BRIEN: You know, each and every  
20 one of us in this room are -- are deeply grateful to  
21 the men and the women of the Guard who put themselves  
22 in harm's way.

23 And sadly it's my understanding that  
24 there has been a spike in returning veterans getting  
25 in trouble with the law, to the point that Justice

1 Seamus McCafferty has been reaching out across the  
2 Commonwealth trying to set up veterans courts.

3 I'd like you to -- I'd like you to speak  
4 to what you're doing to try to help these men and  
5 women on their return who -- who maybe have gotten  
6 into a drug usage issue or have some -- some -- some  
7 emotional issues upon their return.

8 What -- what are you doing to try to  
9 smooth the path on their way back to civilian life?

10 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Well, we attacked  
11 this in several -- several methods. We have a --  
12 what we call deployment cycle support branch of my  
13 joint headquarters, and they work with  
14 reintegration. Working with the soldier, working  
15 with the family.

16 We have an employer outreach branch that  
17 if they don't have a job we try to get them a job,  
18 because if they're employed that makes it a lot  
19 easier.

20 And the program that's championed by  
21 Justice McCafferty, as you mentioned, you know, the  
22 veterans court is an extremely valuable program. We  
23 have 12 of those in 12 of the 67 counties of  
24 Pennsylvania, and we are working with my Judge  
25 Adjutant General through the bar associations and

1 other justices throughout the state to set that up in  
2 every -- in every county.

3 I just attended a ribbon cutting at York  
4 County just a couple weeks ago. And basically they  
5 take a look at soldiers, airmen, Marines, who come  
6 back, either Guard Reservists or active duty, come  
7 off active duty, and they have -- they have to come  
8 out of that emotional high, the super vigilance that  
9 got them through combat, close combat. They're  
10 dealing with the stresses and horrors of close  
11 combat, seeing their friends killed or -- or seeing  
12 people blown up in front of them. And it takes  
13 awhile to get used to that. And some people  
14 unfortunately never do.

15 And most people can deal with it, but it  
16 takes some adjustment. Sometimes they -- they  
17 medicate themselves by an overindulgence in alcohol  
18 or maybe drugs. If they're a first-time offender and  
19 have no other offense, they bring them into veterans  
20 court like the one I saw in York County, like the one  
21 championed by Justice McCafferty, and they -- instead  
22 of sentencing them to jail, they pair them up with a  
23 veterans -- a veteran, usually from the veterans  
24 service organization, who have been there themselves,  
25 who have been members of combat, who have come back,

1 and they act as mentors.

2 And if they successfully graduate from  
3 the mentorship programs, which usually covers months  
4 and months of one-on-one talking and therapy,  
5 their -- their recidivism rate is extremely low.

6 So they -- so they have a high degree of  
7 success rate, somewhere between 75 and 85 percent  
8 that stay out of the criminal justice system from  
9 then on. And by talking to somebody who has been  
10 there, that makes all the difference in the world.

11 So I applaud that initiative, and we  
12 will continue to work that -- to get that in every  
13 county.

14 REP. O'BRIEN: How are you doing on the  
15 funding side of that equation?

16 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: That's a local  
17 county initiative. And we act as advocates for that  
18 and once we get to the decision makers in the  
19 counties, I utilize my staff -- my staff judge  
20 adjutant who is on federal military duty for me.

21 So we have no direct state funding for  
22 that. It's a county initiative.

23 REP. O'BRIEN: Thank you, general.

24 And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: You're welcome.

1 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you.

2 Representative Gordon Denlinger.

3 REP. DENLINGER: Thank you,

4 Mr. Chairman.

5 Good morning, general.

6 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Good morning.

7 REP. DENLINGER: I want to shift gears  
8 into a discussion over -- I understand that you and  
9 your staff are working through a comprehensive review  
10 of the Pennsylvania Code of Justice.

11 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Yes, sir.

12 REP. DENLINGER: Military Justice.  
13 Pardon me. Could you bring us up-to-date on those  
14 efforts and -- and what drove the feeling of a need  
15 for a review?

16 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: The existing  
17 Pennsylvania Code of Military Justice dates back to  
18 1916, and the table of punishments are extremely  
19 outdated so that it then becomes meaningless.

20 So if I have a soldier or airman that  
21 misbehaves and is in need of discipline, many times  
22 the only course I have is to throw them out of the  
23 Guard, which is kind of an extreme measure when you  
24 think if you get somebody's attention by a -- maybe a  
25 significant fine or a large scale reduction in rank,

1 that will really turn somebody around. And that is  
2 the intent of this.

3 So the -- the new model code codifies  
4 and updates the -- that so it allows me as adjutant  
5 general to impose fines that would be meaningful.

6 It clarifies the rules of engagement  
7 or -- or who has jurisdiction, and there's issues on  
8 that as well.

9 It's based after a model code that's  
10 being adopted by many of the National Guards across  
11 the country.

12 It will be a big help and now will allow  
13 us to deal with that small percentage of our soldiers  
14 and airmen that need discipline to keep themselves on  
15 the straight and narrow rather than being given the  
16 heave ho out of the Guard, which is basically what I  
17 have to do now.

18 REP. DENLINGER: Very good. And -- and  
19 could you just share with us? I would presume you  
20 have a JAG corps.

21 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: I do.

22 REP. DENLINGER: And how large is that?

23 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: It's about 30-some  
24 officers.

25 REP. DENLINGER: Thirty-some. And --

1 and

2 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Army and Air.

3 REP. DENLINGER: How many cases per year  
4 do they enter into?

5 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: For a  
6 court-martial, virtually none. And it's because it's  
7 meaningless. So we are then forced to go the  
8 administrative discharge route, and we go that way.

9 So we really haven't had a court-martial  
10 in the Pennsylvania Guard for years because the code  
11 is so out-of-date.

12 REP. DENLINGER: Sounds like it was time  
13 for a --

14 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Like I could  
15 impose a \$50 fine on somebody. Like that's going to  
16 really mean anything. That kind of thing. Or I  
17 could put them in confinement, but I have no place to  
18 confine them. I'm not interested in putting people  
19 in jail. I'm looking and interested in getting  
20 someone's attention to change their behavior so they  
21 become and stay a productive member of the National  
22 Guard.

23 REP. DENLINGER: Will you -- will you  
24 need legislation to take that through the final  
25 process?

1 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Yes, sir. And  
2 that bill has been introduced by Senator Mary White.  
3 And her husband has -- was a JAG officer for many  
4 years, as you probably know, and she's championed  
5 that and I would urge all members of this body when  
6 it comes to the House to please support that  
7 measure. It would be a great tool in our -- in our  
8 kit bag.

9 REP. DENLINGER: Very good. And then  
10 one last question, if I may. Just a clarification of  
11 something I think I heard you say earlier regarding  
12 the -- the place of predator drones.

13 There is a plan to fly those over  
14 Pennsylvania air space.

15 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: I --

16 REP. DENLINGER: Could you share with us  
17 the nature of that?

18 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Okay. The  
19 aircraft I'm talking about was an MQ-9 Reaper, and  
20 that's a really large drone aircraft.

21 And we would have the ground control  
22 unit only. So they would not fly in Pennsylvania.  
23 They would be remote -- we would fly them from  
24 Pennsylvania at a station, but the actual aircraft  
25 would operate out of an airfield somewhere on the



1 other side of the world. It could be the Middle  
2 East. It could be anywhere they put it.

3 So it's remarkable technology. What we  
4 do fly here in Pennsylvania is a much smaller  
5 aircraft called the Shadow. It's flown by the Army  
6 National Guard. All three of our brigade combat  
7 teams fly that. And that flies over controlled air  
8 space at Fort Indiantown Gap.

9 It has to be controlled air space  
10 because obviously a drone has no pilot on board,  
11 can't see another airplane. So the FAA requires it  
12 to be in completely controlled military air space.

13 REP. DENLINGER: And -- and those  
14 flights would be for training purposes?

15 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: That's correct.

16 REP. DENLINGER: Not for the collection  
17 of data?

18 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: No. We're not  
19 allowed to do that.

20 REP. DENLINGER: Okay. Very good.  
21 Thank you for that clarification.

22 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: You're welcome.

23 REP. DENLINGER: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you. The next

1 question will be by Representative Scott Perry.

2 REP. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Good morning, sir.

4 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Good morning.

5 REP. PERRY: We listened to the  
6 questions from the Chairman, and, of course, it's the  
7 Chairman's prerogative, but I -- I have some  
8 continued questions about veterans and their care, as  
9 we all are concerned, and especially with diminished  
10 budgets, and I appreciate, and I think everybody in  
11 the body appreciates, the efforts of the Guard to  
12 reduce costs and maintain the care.

13 The -- I'm particularly interested in  
14 some care of a new wing in Spring City. I know it's  
15 out of the district I represent, but there's some  
16 particular care that's provided there.

17 Can you tell me how the budget cuts or  
18 the -- or the -- the less funding -- reduced funding  
19 will affect that? Is it open and, if not, when will  
20 it open?

21 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Okay. The --  
22 you're talking about the addition to the home down  
23 there, which is a 120-bed addition. That is --  
24 should reach -- should open this summer. July is the  
25 target date.

1                   And we will take 120 residents from the  
2 existing facility, move them into this new -- new  
3 part, new wing, and then we will -- we will engage in  
4 a rehabilitation and rebuilding effort, extensive  
5 rebuilding effort of the 120 beds and rooms that we  
6 vacate.

7                   So probably in about another year to 18  
8 months we'll be able to reopen then and increase our  
9 total census in the southeast home by another 120.

10                  So we were -- when we found -- that was  
11 one of the homes that was way over budget in terms of  
12 cost per care. So -- but we -- we have a plan now so  
13 we'll be able to take care of -- and we're  
14 concentrating mainly -- we're beginning to shift our  
15 emphasis more to the veterans that need more care,  
16 which I'm talking skilled nursing care and dementia  
17 care.

18                  So we will continue to expand that  
19 capability and probably be -- start -- start to be  
20 reducing what we call domiciliary care or regular  
21 personal care.

22                  So this summer we'll open the 120-bed  
23 addition, then renovate the -- the rooms that they  
24 came out of, then another year later we should be  
25 able to open that and expand our ability to care for

1 even more veterans.

2 REP. PERRY: And with the reductions in  
3 veterans -- the veterans home appropriation and  
4 increase or expected increase in population needing  
5 that care, you still are confident that the state  
6 will be able and the department will be able to  
7 provide that care over the long term?

8 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: I am. And what  
9 happened in that home, we -- we used to have  
10 domiciliary units outside the home, which were like  
11 prefab housing. They were condemned because they  
12 were in structural -- in danger of structural  
13 collapse. Several years ago we moved the people out  
14 of there, and then we discovered this year that there  
15 were no layoffs in the homes.

16 So here we had a home that had 60 less  
17 veterans to take care of and excess staff. So that's  
18 where a lot of these furloughs are coming out of.

19 Now, in probably a year and a half or  
20 two years we'll have to ramp up those when we add  
21 more people to these newly renovated wings.

22 REP. PERRY: Thank you, general.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,  
25 representative.

1 Representative Gary Day.

2 REP. DAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Thank you for being here today.

4 Funding pressure usually culminates, you  
5 know, in base realignment and closure discussions,  
6 and I'm just curious what is your plans or -- or what  
7 is your vision of the future as far as any future  
8 reductions, maybe in this budget, but also in future  
9 years as well?

10 Are there things on your mind that  
11 you're looking at that need to be -- you know,  
12 installations or operations that need to be reduced  
13 or closed across the Commonwealth, but specifically  
14 in the Kutztown and Allentown area as well?

15 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: I can tell you  
16 none in the Kutztown and Allentown area. We have  
17 several armories there, and I don't see any need  
18 or -- or desire to close any of those.

19 The base realignment and closing  
20 commission would probably impact active duty  
21 installations more than any other, and they would be  
22 the three depots in the state and/or the Army War  
23 College.

24 Personally speaking, my personal  
25 opinion, the Army War College is at some risk. We

1 are working with the commandant of the War College.  
2 We think it's a great investment. We want to keep it  
3 there. The military spent a ton of money upgrading  
4 the facilities there.

5 It's close to Washington, D.C so they  
6 regularly get high level speakers that come right  
7 from Washington because it's so easy to get there.

8 So -- but certainly in the National  
9 Guard side, we may have one or two armories that we  
10 might want -- want to combine. But we've done a lot  
11 of that in the past -- not a lot. We've done some of  
12 that in the past six or seven years.

13 I don't see anything on the new -- on  
14 the horizon that would cause us to do that. Because  
15 we want to remain a community-based organization.

16 It's important for us to be in the 80 or  
17 85 communities that we are in for recruiting,  
18 retention purposes, for getting the military -- the  
19 people a chance to see military people.

20 And, also, when the Governor calls us,  
21 it's good to be in downtown Kutztown, if that's where  
22 the trouble is, rather than have to come from  
23 Indiantown Gap to get there.

24 REP. DAY: Thank you for that answer.

25 Another question on the Shadow drones

1 that you talked about. Just to give you an  
2 opportunity to really clear this -- this question out  
3 or clear this air.

4 The -- the use of the drones would be  
5 for training purposes, is my understanding, only.

6 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: That's correct.

7 REP. DAY: Would you ever use -- would  
8 you ever use the training in conjunction with any  
9 other domestic agencies, you know, in Pennsylvania?

10 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: No. That's not  
11 been requested. That would have to be cleared  
12 obviously through legal channels to do that.

13 It's been hypothesized that possibly if  
14 there was a large scale disaster and we wanted to get  
15 somebody out there right away, we might be able to  
16 send that aircraft out, if asked.

17 Again, there's clearances involved  
18 because it's a pilotless aircraft that can't see  
19 other airplanes. So you depend on the one pilot  
20 spotting it and it's small and it's light weight,  
21 very difficult to -- so you want to avoid any air  
22 collisions.

23 So I don't foresee any real opportunity  
24 of that because I have a lot of rotary wing  
25 aircraft. If we want to go see what's going on on

1 the ground, we put spotters out there in the -- in  
2 the helicopters and find it that way.

3 REP. DAY: Is the spotting done by  
4 manpower then as opposed to electronics, like radar  
5 and that?

6 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: If we're using  
7 helicopters, it's done by manpower. The Shadow that  
8 we're talking about has two cameras on board. And  
9 that has a real-time downloading to the control  
10 station.

11 REP. DAY: I'm trying to give you an  
12 opportunity to explain whether it's against the law  
13 to do that or whether it's military policy, against  
14 military policy to use our -- your facilities for  
15 domestic aid.

16 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: The National  
17 Guard, when -- when mobilized by the Governor, can do  
18 law enforcement-type work in a limited scale.

19 We're not allowed to, quote, spy or  
20 intelligent -- do any intelligence collection in --  
21 no matter what status we're in. So I don't foresee  
22 that being used at all.

23 REP. DAY: Thank you. I appreciate your  
24 answer.

25 Can you give me an idea? I don't want



1 to ask a specific question. I want you to be able to  
2 use your -- the way you report this.

3 But the manpower, the head count under  
4 your purview, including soldiers or -- or just any  
5 type of reporting. I'm naive. I don't know what --  
6 how do you do that, but I don't want to make you  
7 create new data.

8 How do you answer the question of what  
9 is the head count under your responsibility?

10 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: I'm well aware of the  
11 fact that I have 15,285 National Guard Army soldiers,  
12 and I have 3,981 Air Guardsmen.

13 We're both over a hundred percent of what  
14 we're allocated by about a half to one percent,  
15 because our recruiting and retention has been so  
16 successful here.

17 In addition, I have close to 2,000 state  
18 workers who work primarily in the state's veterans  
19 homes and also do maintenance for me at Fort  
20 Indiantown Gap and the armories.

21 Of those numbers, approximately 20 to -- 20  
22 percent are full-time employees. The others are  
23 part-time, such as I was for 31 years. I had a  
24 civilian career and also worked in the Guard.

25 REP. DAY: I'd like to thank you for your

1 answers today. I really appreciate it.

2 Mr. Chairman, thank you for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,  
4 representative.

5 Rep -- I'd like to acknowledge the presence  
6 of Representative Scavello, Representative Brian  
7 Ellis, and Representative Brownlee that have joined  
8 us from the Appropriations Committee.

9 Also like to acknowledge the presence of  
10 Representative Rick Saccone who has joined us.

11 At this time I'd like to acknowledge and  
12 present the Democratic Chair of the committee,  
13 Military and Veterans Affairs, Emergency  
14 Preparedness, Representative Chris Sainato.

15 REP. SAINATO: Thank you, Chairman Adolph.

16 Thank you, Major General Greg.

17 I, too, would like to commend you and your  
18 staff and the servicemen and women --

19 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Thank you.

20 REP. SAINATO: -- for the job that you do and  
21 on behalf of myself and Chairman Barrar for the  
22 cooperation and the commitment you've shown toward  
23 our committee the past 16, 17 months. Because we've  
24 been a very active committee.

25 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: That's true.

1 REP. SAINATO: Yesterday we were hearing  
2 from FEMA and all the disasters that have occurred.

3 And another major aspect of our committee is  
4 the veterans affairs end of it, and we've had that  
5 opportunity to tour the veterans home in the  
6 southeast. We've had the opportunity to be at  
7 Indiantown Gap with you and your staff.

8 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Right.

9 REP. SAINATO: And I'd like to commend you  
10 for that, and my staff and Chairman Barrar's staff,  
11 you know, have been very busy working with your staff

12 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: I appreciate that.

13 REP. SAINATO: And we do appreciate the  
14 cooperation, because we all are on the same page as  
15 far as trying to serve the needs and protecting, you  
16 know, our soil and to make sure the veterans are --  
17 are taken care of. It is, you know, vitally  
18 important, especially in these -- these times.

19 So we've had many questions from, you know,  
20 some of the members here today. I do -- I'd like to  
21 ask two.

22 The budget proposal transfer is \$408,000  
23 from veterans assistance to a proposed veterans  
24 service and veterans outreach restricted account.

25 Does this have any impact on the way that

1 our veterans will receive assistance or from whom  
2 they will receive assistance?

3 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Yes. We think it will  
4 be -- we'll be able to provide more services quicker  
5 with the way we're doing this.

6 The veterans foundation that we're setting  
7 up will be funded by a one-time disbursement from  
8 this restricted account of a million dollars, and  
9 this veterans foundation will allow us to work with  
10 local charities. And there's 82, for instance, that  
11 take care of homeless people and homeless veterans.

12 The Pennsylvania -- the Philadelphia  
13 Multi-Service Center for Veterans, the Pittsburgh  
14 Leadership Center, the Sanctuary in Allentown, the  
15 Healing Hounds in Camp Hill and Harrisburg and the  
16 YMCA all deal with one part or another of the  
17 veteran's care and they're right down at the  
18 grassroots where the veterans live and work.

19 And this veterans foundation will allow us  
20 to give grants to these -- these kind of charities  
21 that work to provide such tremendous service and  
22 support to our veterans.

23 And, in addition, this veterans services --  
24 veterans services account also has an additional  
25 700,000 in it that is funded for this budget year,

1 which will allow us to grow our grants to the  
2 Veterans Service Outreach Program, what I call Act  
3 66, and that will be a 50 percent increase in this  
4 account and allow us to increase -- to go from 39 to  
5 about -- close to 50 accredited veteran services  
6 offices throughout the state drawn from the ranks of  
7 the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion,  
8 and other civil organizations.

9           And their sole purpose is to find veterans  
10 in need of care, find veterans who can get funding  
11 from the federal Veterans Administration, help them  
12 fill out the paperwork, help them follow up, be sure  
13 they get the care, and also send them to hospitals  
14 and --and veterans centers, the 12 veterans centers  
15 we have in the state if they need that kind of help.

16           So we think this will be a tremendous  
17 increase in what is an important part of our job, and  
18 that's outreach to 950,000 veterans that are there,  
19 on top of the 1,500 we have in the veterans homes.

20           So for a sum of about a million seven we  
21 think we can explode our outreach to the veterans  
22 population by a considerable amount.

23           REP. SAINATO: Another question. What is  
24 the proscribed manner that a veteran can get into a  
25 state veterans home?

1 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: He has to fill out an  
2 application. We have a waiting list of about several  
3 hundred. And just go by order -- by order first  
4 in -- let me see. First in -- first out -- no first  
5 in, last out.

6 But it's a date order. As soon as that  
7 accommodation exists, we put them in. And it's done  
8 strictly in date order. So the sooner you apply the  
9 sooner you get in.

10 REP. SAINATO: Okay. I think that's -- I  
11 mean we get that question every once in a while. A  
12 lot of times they always think it's a federal VA  
13 home.

14 And until we had that opportunity to tour  
15 the facility in the southeast and really get a  
16 hands-on to see the work that's done and the people  
17 that are serving there, I think a lot of our -- our  
18 residents in Pennsylvania don't know the work that's  
19 being done.

20 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG. I think you're right.  
21 We -- one of the things that really makes our home  
22 different, each home has a volunteer council that  
23 supports them, and it's usually drawn from local  
24 veterans.

25 And the amount of time that they donate as

1 volunteers really helps make that home a home away  
2 from home. It gives them the home atmosphere that  
3 you will find in all our homes that you may not find  
4 in a for-profit.

5 REP. SAINATO: Yeah. I think I agree with  
6 you. And I saw how they're making it feel like --  
7 like your home.

8 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Yeah.

9 REP. SAINATO: And the new model that  
10 they're using and the effectiveness of that model  
11 seemed to be working very well with the home that we  
12 had seen and the residents seemed to be happy.

13 And I think that's probably the most  
14 important.

15 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: It is.

16 REP. SAINATO: I mean they've served our  
17 country. They should be treated with dignity and  
18 respect, you know, in their later part of life. And  
19 we thank you and your office for that.

20 But I -- I would like to, just in closing,  
21 thank you and all who has served and will continue to  
22 serve. Because, as you said, in my area in western  
23 Pennsylvania, I have a very high number of veterans.

24 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Certainly.

25 REP. SAINATO: World War II veterans Korean

1 veterans, World -- or Vietnam veterans.

2 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Uh-huh

3 REP. SAINATO: Desert Storm. You name it,  
4 they've served. In Pennsylvania in general when the  
5 call came over the years they were always there.

6 And, you know, with the tradition which we  
7 have, we should all be very proud of all of the work  
8 that you do. So thank you, Major General.

9 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: Thank you.

10 REP. SAINATO: Thank you, Chairmen Adolph  
11 and Markosek.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you, Chairman.

13 I'd like to acknowledge the presence of  
14 Representative Cherelle Parker who has joined us.

15 Major General, I want to thank you for  
16 your testimony this morning, and I want to thank you  
17 for the service that you do for the Pennsylvania  
18 veterans, and looking forward to working with you  
19 over the next several months to get this budget  
20 balanced.

21 And I know I'm speaking for Chairman  
22 Markosek. If -- if your staff or you need any  
23 assistance from the legislature, please, feel free to  
24 contact us.

25 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: We'll do that.



1 And we'll keep you informed on this ongoing debate on  
2 the federal level with the impact on the Air Guard.  
3 We'll keep you in the loop on that as well.

4 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you very much.

5 MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG: You're very  
6 welcome.

7 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Okay. For the  
8 members' information, I have contacted the Department  
9 of State and -- to see if they would be able to join  
10 us at 10:30 rather than eleven o'clock. So hopefully  
11 our next hearing will start at 10:30.

12 Thank you.

13 (The proceedings were adjourned at  
14 10:19 a.m.)

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I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me on the within proceedings and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

Brenda S. Hamilton, RPR  
Reporter - Notary Public