

Testimony to the Regulation and Protection Sub-Committee
The Adjutant General of the State of Connecticut
Maj. Gen Thaddeus J. Martin

Good morning, I am Maj. Gen. Thad Martin the Adjutant General for the state of Connecticut. I am joined by Mr. Tom Thomas the Military Department's financial manager.

With the nation still confronted with the demands of a two front war, the Military department remains fully engaged in the training, equipping and mobilization of large numbers of soldiers and airmen. We are currently entering a period where our deployed presence in support of the Global War on Terror will climb to a number in excess of 1200 by this time next year. As I sit before you today, the CTNG has 350 of our soldiers and airmen deployed with another 900 preparing for deployment this coming spring and fall.

No one understands better the importance of getting the military department's budget right. By means of illustration the department employs over 5100 persons in a myriad of different full and part time statuses. Of that number we employ only 109 pure state employees using just 51 FTEs. These are the people who help manage and process our reimbursements from the Feds and maintain our 42 facilities across the state. With an annual payroll of approximately 134 million dollars the state contribution comes in at 3.5 million dollars or about a two and a half percent cost share. I look upon the state budget of around \$7 million dollars overall as the key to unlocking access to nearly \$250 million more in federal funds.

We expect to fully execute our (adjusted) FY-09 Personal Services, Other Expenses and Other Current Expenses appropriations of \$7.1 million dollars. The FY-10 recommendation in the governor's budget of just over \$7.4 million should be sufficient to cover our upcoming operating needs.

Our federal military facility recapitalization program currently ranks third in the nation in terms of Military Construction Dollars. For just FY-08 and FY-09 we have secured in excess of 140 million dollars in federal construction funds for Army and Air National Guard projects across the state.

Last fall we began the construction of a 19 million dollar Armed Forces Readiness Center at Camp Rell. The recent allocation of 3.8 million in state bonding leveraged nearly 30 million dollars in Fed funding for a Regional Training Institute at Camp Rell, projected to go to contract by early April. Five, 100 percent fed funded construction projects are all on track to break ground this year. The first is a 14 million dollar alteration/improvement to the East Haven Rifle Range that will begin construction this summer. Although not a pure CTNG project, a successful property acquisition effort in Middletown leverages another 65 million in federal construction dollars this year. The next three projects are all Air Guard projects at Bradley. The first is the construction of an 8.2 million dollar addition to the TF-34 Engine Repair Facility coupled with a companion project that provides a 1.3 million dollar engine test pad. The final project is a 1.8 million dollar addition/alteration to accommodate the units new C-21 Squadron Operations.

The Connecticut National Guard is responsible both federally and by state statute for providing military funeral honors for approximately 3000 deceased veterans across the state annually. We expect federal funding for the program to remain stable for the foreseeable future as the Feds continue covering approximately 75 percent of the costs associated with this \$1.3 million dollar program. Of note during this budget cycle is the maintenance of the status quo relative to the states Funeral Honors account to **\$319,500**. Our efforts will continue to be focused on making our operations as efficient as possible, by passing as much of the program expense to the federal side of the ledger as is legally permissible.

The state's Combat Zone payment program continues to be a good news story. Since its authorization in 2005, nearly 3500 payments totaling just over \$1.5 million have been made. We anticipate that we will be paying an additional 120 personnel as the next wave of eligible members start returning this spring. The FY 2010 budget, calls for a funding level of \$306,000 to support this program. This amount should be sufficient as future deployments stabilize and our members begin to deploy for a second or third time.

Another good news story comes from the Military Family Relief Fund program. Over 60 grants totaling nearly \$125 thousand, have been awarded to families through the Military Family Relief account. Additionally the citizens of the state have donated almost \$205,000 through State income tax refunds to the program. The current balance of \$578 thousand, based on application volume, appears more than adequate for support through the 2010 budget cycle.

Continued engagement in the Global War on Terror and a historic and unprecedented organizational change present a seemingly, never ending list of challenges to the Department. That said we continue to look upon the current environment as one filled with opportunity to better serve the needs of soldiers, airmen and the citizens we stand ready to protect. Know that we remain resolute in our commitment to provide the best for our Connecticut National Guard so that they can continue to effectively respond to both state and federally tasked missions. Thank you all for this opportunity to appear before you today. We look forward to any questions you might have.