



## NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

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March 17, 2005

The Honorable Duncan L. Hunter  
Chairman, House on Committee Armed Services  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Chairman Hunter:

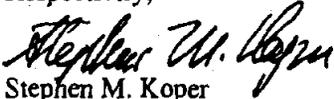
This decade our military forces have faced some of the greatest challenges in our nation's history. By supporting successful missions in Operation Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Operation Iraqi Freedom, while at the same time transforming to face the threats of the future, our Air National Guard has played a critical role in supporting U.S. strategic interests at home and abroad.

Currently, the Department of the Air Force is developing its transformation plan, called Future Total Force (FTF). Over the years, the ANG has proven its willingness to transform and evolve. However, our membership is expressing grave concerns about the direction of the FTF plan and its immediate negative impact on Air Guard force structure. Such concerns include: continuation of the Air Sovereignty missions; funding to transition personnel from current missions to "future missions;" the limited role that The Adjutants General have played in developing the FTF plan; and the impact these force structure reductions will have on Air Guard basing in anticipation of BRAC.

As you and your staff continue holding hearings, NGAUS respectfully requests that the House Armed Services Committee conduct a hearing on Future Total Force. Should any hearing be scheduled, we respectfully request that the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) be invited to testify on behalf of the National Guard and its membership to outline the Guard perspective in relation to FTF. In addition, we offer to coordinate with you and your staff the selection of appropriate Adjutants General that could also offer relevant and critical testimony.

The NGAUS recognizes a need for the Air National Guard to remain a ready, reliable and relevant component of our total air force capability. We also believe it is imperative that any future force modernization discussions that impact the Air National Guard involve a cooperative and collaborative interaction with the Adjutants General.

Respectfully,

  
Stephen M. Koper  
Brigadier General, USAF (ret)  
President