

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**SUBJECT: CHIEF OF NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AS A STATUTORY MEMBER
OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF**

**STATEMENT OF: GENERAL NORTON A. SCHWARTZ
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

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**NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL RELEASED
BY THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES SENATE**

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) is a very important senior leader in our Total Force construct, and through his role in advising the secretaries of the Air Force and the Army directly, and the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS). CNGB is a daily contributor to many of the consequential decisions that are made by the Total Force leadership.

Title 10 of the U.S. Code (10 U.S.C. § 10502(c)) provides for CNGB's principal advisory role, through CJCS, to SECDEF for matters involving non-federalized National Guard forces. By contrast, his advisory role to the service secretaries and chiefs is for all National Guard matters—notably, including those that are related to the federal service of the National Guard. Providing statutory JCS membership to CNGB will blur this crucial distinction.

The CNGB relationship to each service is important and currently sufficient in the performance of the organizing, training, and equipping functions for which the service secretaries and chiefs are singularly responsible. But because CNGB does not represent a single or separate branch of service, making CNGB a statutory member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) would reach beyond the appropriate CNGB role and disrupt the lines of authority and representation that are already in place for the chiefs of staff of the U.S. Army and Air Force. This current effective arrangement should not be altered.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff exists, in large part, to provide military advice on employment of federal forces. Total Force employment considerations are best served by those who possess supervisory and moral authority over field units; who organize, train, and equip personnel of all components of each service; and who are responsible as force providers to the combatant commands. Consequently, CNGB membership on the JCS presents issues concerning his or her appropriate role in offering advice on employment of the Armed Forces in a designated Title 10 role. Moreover, beyond the established relationships among the military services, interactions with Interagency and international partners also could be confused.

Existing law and policy provide appropriate roles and requirements of CNGB and the National Guard Bureau. The authorities of CNGB, augmented by CJCS's standing invitation for CNGB to attend all JCS meetings, ensure that CNGB will continue to have a strong voice, and will remain an essential and highly valued partner for any Air Force Chief of Staff and the Joint Chiefs. But, for the reasons above, CNGB should not be included as a statutory member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, independent of service leadership.