



**KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT**  
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**STATE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT**  
**REMARKS OF MAJOR GENERAL LEE TAFANELLI**  
**JANUARY 16, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

This year I'd like to once again thank the members of the Legislature as well as the people of Kansas for their continued support of the fine civilians, Soldiers and Airmen working to keep you, your families and your neighbors safe.

As I appear before you today, we have approximately one hundred and thirty Soldiers and Airmen deployed around the world, while others are preparing for future deployments. The number of currently deployed service members is the lowest that we have had in several years. Although not as popular of a topic in the news these days, I think it is important to remember that there are still brave men and women of the Kansas National Guard sacrificing time with their families, holidays, children's birthdays, soccer games and anniversaries for all of us. For over a decade, they have quietly and repeatedly answered the call, performing spectacularly under very difficult conditions. I am immensely proud of them and their families.

When deployed, they are able to focus on their wartime task because of the trust they have in their civilian counterparts in the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Homeland Security, who deal with everything that Mother Nature, accidents and mankind can *or might* throw at our state. This past year included snowstorms, wildfires, and devastating tornadoes in Harveyville and Wichita, and drought conditions of historic proportion.

With the collaboration of other state, county, city and private sector partners, our unified homeland security team carries on with the daunting task of trying to keep all Kansans and our critical infrastructure safe from *every* type of disaster and manmade threat; every hour, everyday, year around.

*The Road Ahead*

As we detailed last year, our agency faces some significant challenges in the years ahead. Although we do not have any specifics yet, we know that significant cuts in federal spending are coming to the National Guard, emergency management and homeland security entities. These will be felt at the state level.

We are closely analyzing what this might mean for Kansas; vigilantly on watch for emerging threats

and trends; we must prepare to face. At the same time, we've also begun modifying our organizational structure, our infrastructure, our manning and our business processes to better deal with these upcoming threats.

Over the next decade, we expect the Department of Defense to reduce its force structure considerably. Last week, Defense Secretary Panetta alluded to cuts severe enough they would possibly force a reexamination of current national defense strategy. Depending on pending Congressional action, the Pentagon will likely see cuts of up to \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years. This will, of course, affect both active component and reserve component military installations, including units in Kansas.

We anticipate the reduction of funding will affect manpower, equipment, training and ultimately readiness. Depending on the severity of the reductions, this could make responding to natural disasters within the state more difficult. It will also mean that without other initiatives, our ability to identify and counter conventional and emerging threats will be strained.

Whatever decisions are ultimately made, the National Guard (at one-third the cost of its active component counterpart), will continue its unique dual mission of fighting the nation's wars *and* protecting the homeland. However, to accomplish this, we will have to face some uncomfortable realities about the scope of what we are able to do.

Similarly, homeland security professionals saw a 65% reduction between FY10-12 in federal homeland security grant funding. The FY13 funding consolidates 16 grants into one dedicated fund, which will be awarded based on competing grant applications. These funding trends are expected to continue as the federal government increasingly concentrates its resources on the country's high-population urban centers.

All of this is occurring within a rapidly changing threat environment. Old "traditional" concerns persist; in addition, new threats continue to quickly emerge from individuals, groups and nation states intent on harming the United States and her citizens. These problems are very difficult to mitigate in the best of financial times. Kansas' homeland security professionals will be facing these complex problems with significantly fewer resources.

### Transformation Efforts

Since becoming Adjutant General, I have directed my staff to thoroughly examine our organizational structures and business practices to see what options we have to best position Kansas military and homeland security efforts for the future. Although that analysis is ongoing, the core of the organizational structures analysis was accomplished in 2012, and we will begin full implementation over the next two years.

Because of the sustained lack of clarity about the federal funding, we have developed what we believe to be the best high value courses of action within our control. They are designed for maximum flexibility to adjust to whatever budgetary and policy decisions are made in Washington.

The staffs of the Kansas Army National Guard, the Kansas Air National Guard, the Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Homeland Security have worked tremendously hard on positioning Kansas to score high on measurables tied to future resourcing. On the military side, the Kansas National Guard has raised assigned strength numbers and focused on improving individual

and unit readiness across the board. We have also redoubled our efforts for ensuring our Guard members adhere to the high standards that come with the uniform. These basic, yet vitally important steps show the Department of Defense that Kansas National Guard units are fully manned and mission ready, and our soldiers and airmen are worthy of their trust. We believe these types of efforts are a core reason why *both* bases, where Kansas Air National Guard wings are located, were selected as potential sites for future KC-46 tanker locations.

Additionally, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management has recently completed the Emergency Management Accreditation Program's (EMAP) rigorous accreditation process. This measurement of 64 emergency management standards is considered to be the "gold standard" within the emergency management profession and certifies compliance and best practices in: *Program Management, Administration and Finance, Laws and Authorities, Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Consequence Analysis, Hazard Mitigation, Prevention, Operational Planning, Incident Management, Resource Management and Logistics, Mutual Aid, Communications and Warning, Operations and Procedures, Facilities, Training, Exercises, Evaluations and Corrective Action, Crisis Communications and Public Education and Information.*

In regard to homeland security, the department facilitated and drafted the first comprehensive strategy for the seven regional councils within the state. The strategy outlines challenges threatening regional homeland security efforts and provides clear recommendations to dramatically enhance effectiveness, long-term sustainability and local control. With the continued reduction in federal funding, we believe this strategy based on Kansas self-reliance, with emphasized collaboration and planning efforts between counties and state partners provides the best chances of long-term success.

One final specific effort I would like to mention, before I end my remarks, involves care for our veterans. Over the last year, we have worked closely with the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Kansas Department of Labor, the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, the Kansas Board of Regents, and the Kansas Department of Children and Families to enhance our support to those troops returning home. In the past, Kansas veterans would have to navigate a confusing series of different offices and procedures to identify programs which might be of value to them individually and their families. At the direction of Gov. Brownback, we created a "one-stop" virtual shop where veterans can look for employment, benefits and educational opportunities in Kansas. That site is now operational, hosted by the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs. In the future, we will continue to look for ways to improve our assistance to these brave men and women and ensure them that Kansas will never forget their service and sacrifice.

As I said to this committee last year, we face a series of risks that have the potential to significantly erode our ability to provide basic public safety and homeland security services over the next decade. We are doing our very best to foresee these challenges, understand them, develop high value steps within our control, and then take decisive action before problems arise. We have and will continue to vigorously look ahead and do everything within our power to protect the people of Kansas.

Thank you for your time and I stand ready for your questions.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Maj Gen Lee E. Tafanelli  
Kansas Adjutant General  
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