

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 149 Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY WOZNIAK, BLAKE, VULAKOVICH AND COSTA,  
JUNE 15, 2015

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
JUNE 15, 2015

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress to take all necessary action to prohibit any  
2 force structure changes, to prohibit any transfer of AH-64  
3 Apache helicopters from the National Guard, and maintain the  
4 Army National Guard at 350,200 soldiers until the National  
5 Commission on the Future of the Army has reported its  
6 findings; and urging the United States Army to reverse its  
7 decision to deactivate the 55th Armored Brigade Combat Team,  
8 and to reverse its decision to transfer any National Guard  
9 AH-64 Apache helicopters to active duty.

10 WHEREAS, The United States Army plans to transfer all  
11 National Guard AH-64 Apache helicopters to active duty as part  
12 of the United States Army's Aviation Restructuring Initiative;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Army has marked Pennsylvania's  
15 55th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) for inactivation; and

16 WHEREAS, The 55th ABCT is headquartered in Scranton, extends  
17 over the eastern portion of Pennsylvania and approximately 3,500  
18 Pennsylvanians serve with the 55th ABCT; and

19 WHEREAS, Congress established the National Commission on the  
20 Future of the Army, which is tasked with completing an

1 independent study on the proper size, force mixture and force  
2 generation requirements for the army, and this commission is  
3 required to report its findings during February 2016; and

4 WHEREAS, This comprehensive assessment will provide  
5 Congressional members the opportunity to review and legislate in  
6 response to the commission's recommendations; and

7 WHEREAS, There are 24 AH-64 Apache helicopters authorized for  
8 the Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) with a significant  
9 portion of the allotment stationed at the John Murtha Johnstown-  
10 Cambria County Airport; and

11 WHEREAS, Transferring the Apache helicopters would result in  
12 the loss of 350 part-time personnel from the 1-104th Attack  
13 Battalion and the stationing of PAARNG is an important economic  
14 driver in the Johnstown area with an estimated impact of nearly  
15 \$45 million; and

16 WHEREAS, The economic necessity and the maintenance of  
17 critical national defense units in the Johnstown area, including  
18 the 1-104th Attack Battalion PAARNG and its complement of Apache  
19 helicopters, dictates that the United States Army reverse its  
20 decision to redeploy the helicopters; and

21 WHEREAS, Units from the 55th ABCT have deployed multiple  
22 times since 9/11, including deployments to Kosovo, Kuwait,  
23 Egypt, Iraq and Afghanistan and units from the brigade have  
24 earned multiple Navy Unit Commendations and Meritorious Unit  
25 Commendations; and

26 WHEREAS, The army's current force proposals reduce the total  
27 Army National Guard end strength from 350,200 to 342,000 during  
28 fiscal year 2016, and further, from 342,000 to 335,000 during  
29 fiscal year 2017; and

30 WHEREAS, Since 2000, the army has cut the Army National Guard

1 by 14 Brigade Combat Teams and increased the active army by 12  
2 Brigade Combat Teams, which have resulted in a shift from the  
3 majority of force structure residing with the Army National  
4 Guard to the majority of the force structure contained within  
5 the active army; and

6 WHEREAS, The geographical location of Pennsylvania in  
7 relation to the entire northeast corridor places the  
8 Pennsylvania National Guard in a strategically accessible  
9 position that can effectively respond at the Federal and State  
10 level when needed for domestic emergencies or armed conflicts;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The National Guard represents the best economic  
13 value for the United States validated by the Department of  
14 Defense stating in 2013 that a drilling guardsman is about 15%  
15 the cost of an active component soldier; and

16 WHEREAS, When Title 10 mobilized duty, a national guard  
17 soldier only costs 80 to 95% as much as an active component  
18 soldier; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the  
20 General Assembly urge the United States Army to reverse its  
21 decision to deactivate the 55th Armored Brigade Combat Team and  
22 to reverse its decision to transfer any National Guard AH-64  
23 Apache helicopters to active duty; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urge Congress to take all  
25 necessary action to prohibit any force structure changes, to  
26 prohibit any transfer of AH-64 Apache helicopters from the  
27 National Guard, and maintain the Army National Guard at 350,200  
28 soldiers until the National Commission on the Future of the Army  
29 has reported its findings to Congress in February 2016.