
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. **149** Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY 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
21 independent study on the proper size, force mixture and force

1 generation requirements for the army, and this commission is
2 required to report its findings during February 2016; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, Since 2000, the army has cut the Army National Guard
30 by 14 Brigade Combat Teams and increased the active army by 12

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

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

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

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

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

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