

TESTIMONY OF
MAJOR GENERAL ALAN S. DOHRMANN
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
26 JANUARY 2023
SENATE BILL 2234

Chairman Luick and members of the committee, I am Al Dohrmann, Adjutant General for the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG). I am here today to provide testimony for Senate Bill 2234, which proposes \$2.6M of funding to the National Guard for design and architecture costs for armory construction in Williston, North Dakota.

While a new Armory has been part of our facilities master plan since 2015, I'm testifying in a neutral position today.

First, this funding is not in the Governor budget recommendation which my agency fully supports. We were part of the Governor's strategic review process and appreciate the effort of the Governor and his advisors to balance competing priorities. As an agency, we understand our requirements need to be weighed against other needs in state government. Finding a federal or state solution for a new armory in Williston remains a priority, but not the immediate need in the next biennium.

Second, it may be premature to construct a new Armory in Williston. Currently we have a minimal presence in Williston. We received a Department of the Army deactivation order for the engineer company that was assigned there. At that time, we decided that it was critical that we maintain a presence in northwest North Dakota. After extensive staff analysis, I approved the re-location of an Air Defense unit of 63 soldiers from Bismarck to Williston. This move will occur this summer.

This Air Defense unit will move into a facility recently renovated by the city of Williston. This rental facility is adequate for the unit's training requirements in the short-term. As the unit settles into the facility, we will continue to assess future requirements, including the construction of a new Armory. Allowing time for the unit to come up to full operational capability will put us in a better position to assess and address this emerging requirement in the 69th Legislative session. We always leverage federal military construction dollars but know that a federal solution in Williston may be decades out.

With that said, I need to recognized Williston and Williams County for their support and contributions to the North Dakota National Guard. They have been incredible partners. Not only did they provide and renovate a new rental facility for our Air Defense unit, but they also designated land for a new National Guard Armory adjacent to the new High School. The value of the land and infrastructure is estimated in excess of \$6,000,000. We truly appreciate all the communities that support our National Guard units, but Williston truly goes above and beyond.

If SB 2234 is approved and a future funding solution for construction is identified a new Williston Armory would be considered a shovel ready project.

I will stand by for any questions that you may have.