

TESTIMONY OF  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ALAN S. DOHRMANN  
THE DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL  
BEFORE THE  
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAMS COMMITTEE  
5 JUNE 2014

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I am Brigadier General Alan Dohrmann, the Deputy Adjutant General of North Dakota. I am here this morning to provide testimony regarding the proposed elimination of the National Guard security and firefighter retirement program and a transfer of its members to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation program. These changes have become necessary due to significant reductions in our authorized manning.

When our C-21 Lear jets went to the boneyard in 2013, North Dakota was without a manned-flying mission. Without a manned flying mission, the federal government will not fund the residual firefighter requirements at Hector Field, Fargo after September 30, 2014. We have worked closely with the Fargo Airport Authority. While we have been forced to terminate the employment of all twenty-eight (28) of our federally reimbursed state employees, the Airport Authority has agreed to hire ten (10) of these firefighters. Those that have been hired by the Fargo Airport will become Airport employees on October 1, 2014, and will therefore transfer their benefits.

The National Guard security guards' authorized numbers have also been significantly reduced along with their federal reimbursement. We have implemented a reduction in force process to reduce our number of Army National Guard security guards from twenty-four (24) to twelve (12). Of the remaining twelve (12) security guards, only ten (10) are under the National Guard Security and Firefighter Retirement Program. Along with six (6) of the Air National Guard security guards there are a total of sixteen (16) security guards that will be remaining in our retirement pool.

With only sixteen (16) security guards and no firefighter employees, we feared that the employee contribution numbers would not be large enough to sustain this pool. NDPERS concurred with this concern and has worked with us to present the bill before you today. Based on our discussions with NDPERS it appears that the existing Bureau of Criminal Investigations pool would be the most appropriate to add our sixteen (16) employees.