

**TESTIMONY OF
BRIGADIER GENERAL ALAN DOHRMANN
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
GOVERNMENT SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE
AUGUST 6, 2014
SENATE BILL 2210**

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Brigadier General Alan Dohrmann, North Dakota National Guard Deputy Adjutant General. I am testifying as requested to provide an update of SB 2210. Specifically, on the projected costs for writing, publishing, and distributing a record of all ND Veterans, including those killed and missing in action, since statehood.

The North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) has issued an RFP to NDSU's Department of History on 23 July 2014. Initial feedback from NDSU indicates a tentative project completion timeline of 24 months from initiation of work. The current version of SB 2210 is broadly defined and may have unintended consequences as the intent may be interpreted as "...a record of all North Dakota Veterans", which would lead us to go back and edit the red and blue books to add Veterans not involved in a conflict. Currently these historical books only list those who served in a combat zone.

There is a need for clarification of legislative intent. The further explanation would allow the NDNG to plan for and focus adequate resources to provide a more specific direction for the RFP issued to NDSU and the overall work on the books will be specific and relevant.

Our recommendation for moving forward would be for the NDNG to work with Legislative Council and draft a version of SB 2210 that includes specific criteria, focused requirements and clear legislative intent. Specifically:

- Research, print and publish a volume of all North Dakota KIA and MIA's since statehood.
- Continue the tradition of publishing the red/blue books which document Veterans serving in areas of conflict. One from 1974-2000 would capture Desert Storm, Bosnia, and other smaller military conflicts, and the second book from 2001 to current, capturing the Veterans serving in war zones in support of the Global War on Terrorism.
- Explore possibilities to establish and maintain a database of all Veterans who have served since statehood, both during war or non-war periods.

Mr Chairman, I will answer any questions you or the committee may have at this time.