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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

June 21, 2004

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The Honorable R. L. Brownlee
Acting Secretary of the Army
105 Army Pentagon
Washington DC 20310

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request a timely report on the status of all the Illinois National Guard and Reserve units currently activated in support of the efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A day does not go by that I do not receive a telephone call or an email, or get stopped by a family member, asking that I do everything I can to bring their loved ones home quickly and safely. Unfortunately, with the current state of affairs, I do not foresee any early homecomings. In fact, several of the Illinois units that had already been mobilized for more than a year were extended for at least another 90 days by Secretary Rumsfeld's April 15, 2004 announcement, due to ongoing and increased tensions in Iraq.

While I cannot give these families any assurance about early returns, I would at least like to be able to provide them timely information about the status of units deployed from Illinois. In a May 4, 2004 letter I asked you to provide me with an overall status of the 333rd Military Police Company from Freeport. Your staff responded with valuable information. As a result, I was able to reassure the families that everything is being done to ensure their loved ones, our soldiers, have the best equipment and protection we can give them as they serve us bravely in the Middle East. Not long after that, I was asked about the 933rd Military Police Company, which turned out to be in an entirely different situation.

Given the more than 4,000 Guard and Reserve members deployed from Illinois units, I am now requesting that you provide similar information on all Illinois Guard and Reserve units, including but not limited to the following:

- F Company, 106th Aviation Battalion (F CO 106 AV), Bartonville, Illinois
- 33rd Area Support Group (33 ASG), Chicago, Illinois
- 38th Rear Operations Center (38th ROC), Chicago, Illinois
- 933rd Military Police Company (933 MP), Chicago, Illinois
- C Company 341st Military Intelligence (C/341 MI) (three teams), Chicago, Illinois
- B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery (B BTRY 2-122 FA) Crestwood, Illinois

- H Battery 2nd Battalion 202 Air Defense Artillery Enhanced Separate Brigade- Louisiana Army National Guard (H/2-202 ADA 256th eSB-LAARNG), Crestwood and North Riverside, Illinois
- 333rd Military Police Company (333 MP), Freeport, Illinois
- F Battery, 202nd Air Defense Artillery (F/202 ADA 39th-AR), Galva, Illinois
- 1st Battalion, 131st Infantry (1-131 IN BN), Joliet, Bartonville, Bloomington, Pontiac, Kankakee, Illinois
- Headquarters Support Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery (HHSB 3-123 FA), Marion, Illinois
- G Battery, 202nd Air Defense Artillery (G/202 ADA 30th-NC), Marseilles and Streator, Illinois
- A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery (A BTRY 3-123 FA), Mt. Vernon, Illinois
- 1244 Transportation Company (1244 TC), North Riverside, Illinois
- 3625th Maintenance Company (3625 MC), North Riverside, Illinois
- 1544th Transportation Command (1544 TC), Paris, Illinois
- 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation (1-106 AV), Peoria, Illinois
- 139th Military Public Affairs Detachment (139 MPAD), Springfield, Illinois
- 232nd Combat Support Battalion (232 CSB), Springfield, Illinois
- Headquarters State Area Command, Multi-National Division-Poland (HQ STARC FWD MND-P), Springfield, Illinois
- C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery (C BTRY 2-122 FA), Sycamore, Illinois
- B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 123 Field Artillery (B BTRY 3-123 FA), West Frankfort, Illinois

The specific information I seek includes the following:

- What operation is the unit deployed in support of?
- Is this unit deployed in an area considered to be a high- risk/combat area?
- What type of mission is the unit currently performing?
- Is the unit appropriately manned to perform the mission?
- Are all unit members equipped with body armor and appropriate individual protective gear?
- What types of Humvees and/or other transportation equipment are being used by the unit? Does this equipment have or require protective gear? Is it operational? Is the number of vehicles adequate to the scope of that unit's mission?
- General status of Humvees:
 - o How many of the new model M1114 Humvees are deployed?
 - o How many soft-skin Humvees have been outfitted with up-armor kits?
 - o How many more soft-skin Humvees are scheduled to receive up-armor kits?
- What is the unit's estimated demobilization date?
- What is the estimated date the unit will return to hometown?
- Please provide any additional information you deem to be appropriate and relevant for each unit.

Since this request is of significant magnitude, I ask that you provide all the information you can by Friday, June 25, 2004, the start of the Fourth of July District Work Period, and then update the information as you complete each unit review. Please provide the information in a form that can be released to the public with a specific person in the Department of the Army as the source. Please contact Cathryn Kennedy of my office in the next few days with a target date for completing your response to this request. Thank you for your assistance.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick Durbin".

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator