



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHENEY TELLS RAHALL: NATIONAL GUARD CUTS DESERVE MORE SCRUTINY**

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- In February of this year, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) pursued Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney on the proposed cuts to the West Virginia National Guard. Recognizing that cuts in troop levels would affect Mercer, Logan, McDowell, and Raleigh counties, Rahall pressed Cheney on his decision:

"The proposal is premature," warned Rahall. "Any cuts in force strength should be deferred until a comprehensive review of our total defensive requirements is completed."

It seems Defense Secretary Cheney agrees. In a letter written on behalf of Cheney, Assistant Secretary of the Army G. Kim Wincup told Rahall:

"It is premature to discuss this proposal pending the final findings of the Total Force Policy Group," said Wincup. Strength adjustments after Fiscal Year 1991 will be largely dependent on the recommendations of the Group and the allocation of missions among all the components of the Total Force."

"I consider this an important step," said Rahall. "The Army is going to look into the situation more intensively, and I am sure that when they do, they will find that cuts in West Virginia's forces is not prudent."

"We have to stand up for ourselves, instead of letting random, uninvestigated, and inarticulated cuts be heaped upon our economy in West Virginia," said Rahall.

Rahall also objected to the size of the cuts saying, "These cuts are far greater than those proposed in other states. It is my understanding that under the proposal, the 1st Squadron, 150th Armored Cavalry, will be cut in Fiscal Year 1993. This will mean that 1,040 personnel, or 25% of the authorized strength level of the West Virginia National Guard would be eliminated."

Rahall continued, "These West Virginian Squadron Units are manned at more than 90% full strength. Of the 10 armories that house these units, 8 are modern armories constructed in the 1960s. Since these units provide about \$7 million annually to the economy of West Virginia by means of annual payroll, procurement and construction, these reductions will have a significant adverse impact upon the economy of West Virginia."

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"My objection to the fairness of the cuts is two-fold. First, the proposed reductions in many other states are well below 25% of their authorized strength levels. Since many of these states are manned well below 90% full strength, their proposed reductions are not significant, real cuts," stated Rahall.

"I just felt that other states were getting less of a cutback to their Guard units, and that West Virginia was getting unfairly punished for having a competent, strong National Guard. We should not be punishing units that are thriving when there are so many other areas of defense that could and should be cut first," said Rahall.