

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JULY 15, 1991**

**CONTACT: STEVE SPINA**

**PHONE: (202) 225-3452**

**RAHALL, COLLEAGUES CALLS ON CHENEY TO SPARE THE 107TH**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In a strongly worded letter to Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) and a score of his colleagues from the Ohio and West Virginia delegations called on Cheney to rethink his decision to deactivate the 107th Armored Cavalry unit citing its importance nationally and on a state level to Ohio and West Virginia.

"The 107th represents 25 percent of West Virginia's guard strength and 22 percent of Ohio's," said Rahall. "It is an important facet of both our economies as well as a much needed tool in our fight to provide competent disaster relief to our communities."

The 150th Armored Cavalry, a squadron of the 107th, contributes \$7 million annually to the economy of southern West Virginia. Units are located in Bluefield, Princeton, Logan, Welch, Dunbar, Beckley, Williamson, Hinton, Ronceverte, and Fallsview.

The letter goes on to say that the 107th has virtually all of the helicopter assets available for missions in both states, and that past performance by the unit in support of humanitarian aid during natural disaster has been superb.

The 107th is also of national significance as well. It is equipped with some of the Army's most advanced equipment, including the M-1 tank and the Cobra attack helicopters; moreover, in these times of rapidly shrinking defense budgets, the 107th is a cost effective move since it comes at a smaller cost than maintaining a comparable active force.

"The 107th should be a prime example of everything that is good in Guard units," said Rahall. "It is equipped to provide military support at a moments notice, it is an integral part of state protection, and it all comes at a reasonable price. Secretary Cheney ought to be singling the 107th out as the prototype unit instead of trying to phase it out."

Rahall clarified that because of language in this year's Defense Appropriations bill which has passed the House, the 107th is safe from cutbacks to troop strength this year as long as the Senate passes similar language.

"But the 107th should never have been targeted and I want it expressed to Secretary Cheney early that the 107th should be protected at all costs if such proposed cuts surface again somewhere down the line," said Rahall.

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9 February 1990

The 1st Squadron, 150th Armored Cavalry (a Squadron of the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard) and the S&T Troop Support Sqdn, 107th ACR has units located in West Virginia cities/counties; have authorized, assigned and full-time manning (FTM) strengths as shown below.

UNIT	LOCATION	STRENGTH		FTM	
		AUTH	ASGD	FED	STATE
HHT (-)	Bluefield (Mercer)	155	115	16	1
Det 1, HHT	Princeton (Mercer)	80	59	2	1
Trp A (-)	Logan (Logan)	74	51	3	1
Det 1, Trp A	Welch (McDowell)	53	40	2	1
Trp B	Dunbar (Kanawha)	127	120	3	1
Trp C	Beckley (Raleigh)	127	105	8	1
Company D	Williamson (Mingo)	76	54	4	1
How Btry (-)	Hinton (Summers)	69	52	3	1
Det 1, How Btry	Ronceverte (Greenbrier)	67	63	2	1
SUBTOTAL:		828	659	43	9
S&T Trp (-)	Fallsvew (Fayette)	123	72	3	1
Det1, S&T Trp	Beckley (Raleigh)	89	42	2	0
SUBTOTAL:		212	112	5	1
TOTAL:		1040	772	48	10

These units represent 25% (1040 ÷ 4136) of the authorized strength of the Army National Guard of West Virginia and have a very significant economic impact on the entire southern half of the State.

1. The Squadron Units provide about 7 million dollars annually to the economy of Southern West Virginia by means of annual payroll, procurement and construction.

2. There are 48 Federal and 10 State full-time employees.

3. Of the ten (10) armories that house units of the 150th and S&T Trp, Spt Sqdn, eight (8) (all except Princeton and Ronceverte) are modern-day armories constructed in the 1960's which also serve as important community centers.

4. This calendar year the organization is scheduled to receive the M-1 Tank, the most modern in the Army inventory, this will further enhance the units capabilities and its combat readiness.

5. The 150th has a proud tradition in the West Virginia National Guard and is a critical part of our proud heritage.

In summary, the loss of the 150th Armored Cavalry Squadron will have a devastating effect on the West Virginia National Guard and the State of West Virginia. The loss comes at a time when West Virginia can ill afford economic impact of this magnitude. Further, the loss of this unit reverses the considerable efforts of Senator Byrd's and our West Virginia Congressional Delegations initiative to increase a defense presence in our State.



JOHN R. KASICH  
12TH DISTRICT, OHIO

MEMBER:  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
READINESS  
PROCUREMENT AND MILITARY  
NUCLEAR SYSTEMS  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

1133 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5355

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
200 NORTH HIGH STREET  
SUITE 400  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215  
(614) 469-7318

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 12, 1991

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney  
Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Secretary Cheney:

We, the undersigned members of the Ohio and West Virginia Congressional Delegations, are writing to express our concern over the proposed deactivation of the **107th Armored Cavalry Regiment**. We urge you to consider several compelling reasons for maintaining the 107th in the Army's force structure.

As a general proposition, we believe that reducing the size of the total force from five to four corps should be realized through proportional cuts in active, reserve, and national guard units; however, there may be particular units which offer special capabilities in specific employment scenarios that should not be abandoned solely on the basis of achieving proportions. We believe the 107th falls squarely into the latter category with respect to both its national and state level missions.

On the national level, as part of existing war plans, each armored cavalry regiment performs reconnaissance and security missions for a corps. The **107th is a particularly valuable asset in that it is equipped with the most modern weapons systems in the Army inventory, including the M-1 tank and Cobra attack helicopters armed with TOW anti-tank missiles.** Consequently, the 107th is a rapidly deployable force with significant combat power.

Moreover, if the United States were to be engaged in another Desert Storm type situation commanding the attention of most of our forces, guard cavalry units would be available for any contingency arising in the Pacific theater or Southern Hemisphere. **This National Guard capability comes at a smaller cost than maintaining a comparable active force, an important consideration in an era of dwindling defense budgets.**

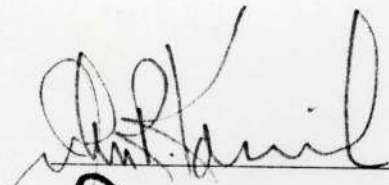
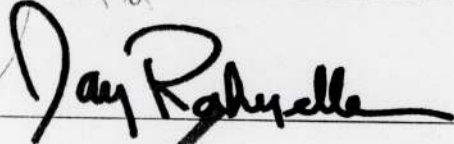
**At the state level, we understand that the 107th represents a substantial portion of the total National Guard strength in Ohio and West Virginia, 22 percent and 25 percent respectively. The**

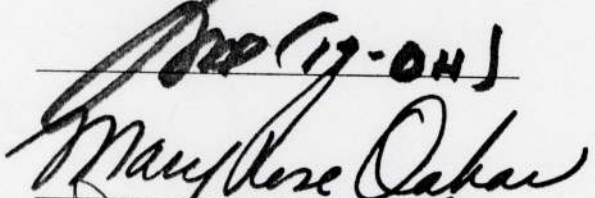
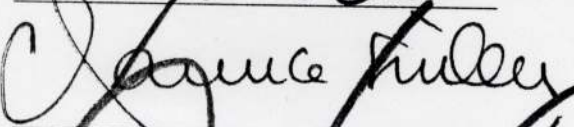
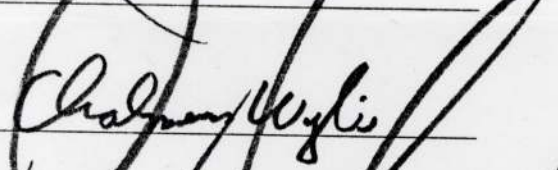
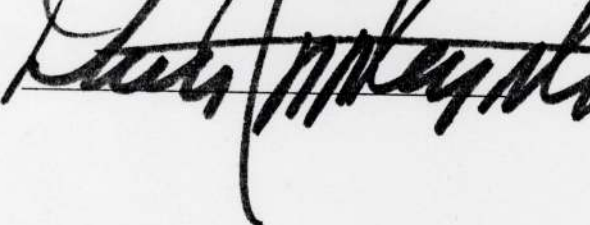


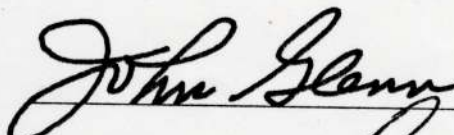
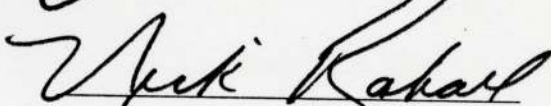
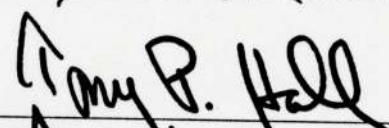




strength of the guard units is important because they provide an important capability for maintaining civil order and providing disaster relief. The 107th has virtually all of the helicopter assets available for these missions in both states. Past performance by this unit in support of humanitarian aid during natural disaster has been superb; losing this capability will place an unwarranted burden on Ohioans and West Virginians.

We believe that the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment is a vital asset to the states it serves and that it should be maintained as an integral part of the national defense strategy. We urge you to review the potential employment of cavalry regiments and find as we do that retention of the 107th is both a national and state imperative.

Sincerely,

  
John Kil  
  
Jay Rahyella

  
Mary Rose Oakes  
  
Lawrence Tucker  
  
Chalmer Wylie  
  
Paul M. Mays

  
John Glenn  
  
Vicki Rahar  
  
Tony P. Hall  
  
Dick  
  
Bob McInerney  
  
Edward F. Fiegan  
  
I. E. Fiegan

Honorable Richard B. Cheney

July 12, 1991

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Charles Lukan

Dave Hoben

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Alan Mollola

Marcy Kaptur

Paul Hiffman

DeWise

Harley O. Stepp

M. L. S. Gray