RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS P. BOSTICK

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

UNITED STATES SENATE

FIRST SESSION, 112TH CONGRESS

ON

HEARING ON THE NOMINATIONS OF
WILLIAM C. OSTENDORFF TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION; RICHARD C. HOWORTH TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY; AND LT. GEN. THOMAS P. BOSTICK TO BE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS/COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

25 MAY 2011

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
UNTIL RELEASED BY THE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Statement By

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the nominee to be Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I want to thank the President, the Secretary of Defense, and our Army leadership for this opportunity to continue serving the men and women of this great Nation.

It is a privilege to serve our Country as I've done for the past 33 years. The Bosticks are a typical Army family, engaged in military and community service. My wife, Renee, is unable to be here today since she is an elementary school Principal in Arlington. Our son, Joshua, is an undergraduate at Stanford University. My father retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant, my father-in-law is a retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major, one of my brothers is an Army Colonel, and I just returned from his son's graduation from my alma mater at West Point, this past Saturday.

I currently serve as the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, a position I have held for the past year and a half. My previous assignments have included three and a half years as the Commanding General of Army Recruiting Command, Assistant Division Commander for the 1st Cavalry Division in Kuwait supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, and troop command at every level from platoon through brigade. Additionally, I have served in the Corps of Engineers as the Director of Military Programs with duty as the Commander of the Gulf Region Division, also in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I was serving as the Deputy Director of Operations in the National Military Command Center in the Pentagon during the events of 9/11/01. Earlier in my career, I served as the Executive Officer to the Chief of the Corps of Engineers and taught Mechanical Engineering at the US Military Academy. These diverse experiences have prepared me to lead one of our Nation's most vital organizations.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Congress to continue executing the Corps of Engineers' mission of providing vital engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security, energize our economy, and reduce the risks from disasters. The recent flooding throughout the Midwest reminds us all of the vital need for the Corps of Engineers and how its actions can affect Americans across the United States. I acknowledge the important role of the Corps of Engineers and the need for the Corps to reach maximum efficiency and effectiveness within constrained resources.

If confirmed, I will provide strong and decisive leadership for the Corps in its important civil works and military missions. To fully understand the breadth of these needs, I will meet with Members of Congress and state and local leaders, in addition to leadership within the Administration and the Department of Defense to seek their input in developing a plan to meet the requirements of today and the future. Finally, it will be important for me to visit the locations facing the greatest challenges because I believe the best assessments are made through a hands on, comprehensive review.

I am honored to be a part of the United States Army Corps of Engineers with its long and proud tradition of performing diverse missions for our Nation. The Corps' military mission includes providing needed infrastructure for our forces on Army and Air Force Installations, as well as providing support for our operations in Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, and elsewhere. The Corps is a critical part of the Army, joint, and interagency team deploying frequently as the lead Army component. Its civil works mission includes developing, preserving and protecting critical water resources and related environmental resources. The Corps is proud that the Nation looks to it to meet these needs today while maintaining the capability to respond to the challenges of tomorrow.

International trade is growing more important each year. Tonnage that moves on our inland navigation system continues to grow and the demand on the capacity of our ports and harbors increases correspondingly. The continued growth of international commerce requires that our ports and harbors continue to be modernized to

accommodate projected demands. Our Nation's continued economic prosperity depends on these vital infrastructure investments.

The Corps must be ready to provide side by side assistance to state and local governments in developing integrated water management strategies. It must develop innovative measures to help protect our people from the threat from floods and storms in order to do our part to keep America strong.

The Corps continually balances competing needs throughout the Nation. The Corps has an excellent record of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental laws and must continue to conduct all its activities in an environmentally responsible manner, while contributing to the economic vitality of the Nation.

The continued integrity and professionalism of the Corps are essential for us to retain the confidence of the American people and meet assigned missions. If confirmed as the Chief of Engineers, I will responsibly manage Corps projects to ensure we are faithful stewards of our environment and our taxpayers' resources. I will work closely with the Administration and Congress as I discharge my leadership responsibilities. I look forward to working closely with this and other Congressional Committees in addressing the missions and challenges ahead.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today, and would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.