

TESTIMONY OF
MAJOR GREGORY GOODMAN
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
4 MARCH 2021
HOUSE BILL 2116

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Major Greg Goodman, Commander of the 219th Security Forces Squadron. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2116. This bill provides a legal authority for the reasonable use of deadly force to protect nuclear assets.

The 219th is part of the North Dakota Air National Guard and we train to provide support to an active duty mission assigned to Minot Air Force Base (AFB). Our mission is to train and maintain certification to provide security to the missile field surrounding the Minot AFB. We support the active duty mission by providing daily and surge security requirements.

The 219th has 139 authorized personnel, 59 full-time and 80 part-time or traditional guard members. One hundred and twenty three are Security Forces personnel, directly impacted by this law while performing their security mission in the missile field.

After returning from their initial entry training technical training the typical Security Forces Airmen will spend 95 days completing initial training and certification. Following a week of administrative in processing they complete one week of nuclear academics training designed to provide foundational knowledge in the performance of their duties in the missile field. Then they complete a 45-day rotation to the missile field, gaining practical experience, improving proficiency of tasks and duties that culminates with independent evaluation of their performance.

Annual sustainment training consists of a two-week period where Airmen work at a missile field working on the job certification proficiency or enhancement, and again requiring independent evaluations of their performance.

Absent proper and appropriate legal authorities, 219th Security Forces Airmen are unable to perform the full scope of their duties in missile field in a Title 32 status.

Senate Bill 2116 allows for a narrow expansion of authority to use deadly force to protect nuclear assets, should the situation require it. This would allow our North Dakota Air National Guard members the ability to respond in the nuclear missile field under the full protection of State law the ability to protect these vital national security assets.

I ask for your support of Senate Bill 2116 and I stand to answer questions.