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AROUND THE CAPITOL

Major General Benjamin Corell, the Adjutant General of the National Guard, delivered the Condition of the Guard speech this morning; both chambers adjourned at the conclusion of his speech. The Senate and House will return on Friday for a gavel-in, gavel-out session.

CONDITION OF THE GUARD

Major General Corell said that his vision of the Iowa National Guard is for the Guard to always be ready. He said that more than 17,000 Guard members have been deployed around the world since 9/11 and that Iowa hasn't had such a "wealth of such experience and talent concentrated in our state since the end of World War II."

Corell said that the Guard has served the nation through its overseas deployments and its successful partnership with Kosovo. He and said that the Guard has also served Iowa by helping to fund improvements to armories and other facilities in the state and by working in partnership with state agencies. He said that the Midwest Traffic Incident Management Training Center is being built at Camp Dodge in conjunction with several state agencies to help with traffic accident investigation, prevention and management.

Corell said that the Guard has also served the state though its ability to respond to disasters. He said that the disaster response ability of the Guard in key Iowa locations serves Iowa well and was "especially important during the Eastern Iowa Derecho." He said that the Guard is also working on a Continuity of Operations initiative to develop a back-up communications system for the state in the event of a disaster. He said that the Guard has been using the Expedited Citizenship and Sponsorship (ECAS) program since April 2020 to help Guard members gain citizenship, and said that 45 members have gained citizenship through the program.

Corell said that his goals for the Iowa National Guard are to maintain the right force structure, develop sustainable infrastructure and to care for service members and their families. He said that deployments change Guard soldiers but that they return back to Iowa "to their families, friends, employers, and communities to pick up where they left off . . . generally more capable when they left."

CONDITION OF THE GUARD (CONTINUED)

Corell said that COVID has delivered a “severe blow” and said that federal vaccine mandates “will no doubt impact our organization, as members must decide to either get vaccinated, or be forced to leave military service.” Currently, the Iowa National Guard is at 102% of its authorized strength.

Corell concluded his speech by saying, “thousands of Iowa men and women who are willing to stand beside me and answer the call to serve our Nation and our State. I assure each of you that the condition of our Iowa National Guard is now, and will continue to remain, strong. Your Iowa National Guard has always been there, we’ve always answered the call, and we have never failed a mission.”

REYNOLDS STATEMENT ON SCOTUS DECISION

The Supreme Court blocked rules from the Biden administration that would have mandated large businesses to require workers to be vaccinated for COVID, or wear masks and be tested weekly. On a 5-4 vote, the Court did allow the Biden administration to impose rules for facilities that receive Medicaid and Medicare funding.

Governor Reynolds released a statement on the rulings:

The SCOTUS ruling on OSHA vaccine mandate is a major victory for Iowans, their personal freedoms and liberties. The Biden Administration should hear this message loud and clear: The American citizens do not believe in government overreach, and they don’t believe in the federal government making health care decisions for them.

At the same time, I’m very disappointed by the Supreme Court’s ruling on the CMS vaccine mandate. Medical providers that have been on the frontlines of this pandemic saving lives deserve the freedom and ability to make their own informed health care decisions.

I believe the vaccine is the best defense against COVID-19, but I also firmly believe in Iowans’ right to make health care decisions based on what’s best for themselves and their families, and I remain committed to protecting those freedoms. President Biden should do the same.

TODAY IN THE LEGISLATURE

House Files: 6 (HF 2024 - HF 2029)

House Study Bills: 4 (HSB 536 - HSB 539)

Senate Files: 29 (SF 2020 - SF 2048)

Senate Study Bills: 8 (SSB 3025 - SSB 3032)

HOUSE & SENATE AGENDA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2022		
9 AM	HOUSE CONVENES	<i>House Chamber</i>
	SENATE CONVENES	<i>Senate Chamber</i>

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

HUMAN RESOURCES

SF 525	CHILD PLACEMENT MATTERS	Edler (C), Costello, Mathis
SF 528	MI PATIENT REPORTS	Edler (C), Costello, Mathis

JUDICIARY

SF 2002	2ND AMENDMENT PROTECTIONS	Reichman (C), Bisignano, Shipley
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NATURAL RESOURCES

SF 2011	YOUTH DEER HUNTING LICENSES	Rozenboom (C), Boulton, Cournoyer
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STATE GOVERNMENT

SF 2017	ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION	Schultz (C), Dawson, Jochum
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TRANSPORTATION

SF 233	SCHOOL PERMIT RESTRICTIONS	Koelker (C) Driscoll, T Taylor
SF 330	ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE	Rozenboom (C), Brown, Giddens

WAYS & MEANS

HF 419	DRIVING CONVENIENCE FEE	Goodwin (C), Quirnbach, Sinclair (reassigned)
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HOUSE FILES (HF 2024 - HF 2029)

[HF 2024](#) **CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE** (**Jones**) (Human Resources)

Requires DHS to amend its rules so that state childcare assistance payments are made to providers for the times the child is scheduled to be in attendance, regardless of whether the child is absent.

[HF 2025](#) **NO INTERNET VOTING** (**Boden**) (State Government)

Prohibits the use of voting equipment that can connect to the internet.

[HF 2026](#) **EXCLUDING RETIREMENT INCOME** (**Mohr, 54 R's**) (Ways & Means)

Exempts all retirement income from the state income tax as of the 2022 tax year.

[HF 2027](#) **STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS** (**Isenhart**) (Appropriations)

Appropriates \$300,000 for the Office for State-Federal Relations, and earmarks \$25,000 of the appropriation for an internet site for reports to the public. Requires annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature. Allows the office to assess state agencies for extraordinary costs.

[HF 2028](#) **ENERGY CENTER** (**Isenhart**) (Commerce)

Moves the repeal of the Iowa Energy Center to 2030. Increases the amount of specified remittances from utilities that go to the Iowa Energy Center to 100%.

[HF 2029](#) **NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE** (**Isenhart**) (Natural Resources)

Requires the DNR to establish a "No Child Left Inside" grant program for outdoor environmental and recreation program for children. Allows awards to schools or non-profit organizations and reserves 50% of the grants for programs helping schools that qualify for Title I funds. Appropriates \$1 million in FY 2023 for the program.

HOUSE STUDY BILLS (HSB 536 – HSB 539)

[HSB 536](#) **LOCAL STORMWATER LAWS** (Commerce) **Nordman** (C), **Mitchell**, **Nielsen**

Prohibits local governments from adopting stormwater ordinances that exceed the requirements of state or federal law.

[HSB 537](#) **MH PRESCRIBER LOAN REPAYMENTS** (Human Resources) **Dolecheck** (C), **Forbes**, **T Moore**

Establishes a prescribing MH professional loan repayment program in the CSC, similar to other loan repayment programs for health care professionals. Requires the professional to practice for five years. Gives priority to lowans and members of the Iowa National Guard. Limits loan repayments to \$40,000 annually and \$200,000 overall (psychiatrists); \$10,000 and \$50,000 (ANRP); \$8,000 and \$40,000 (prescribing psychologist). Appropriates \$1 million for the program to the CSC.

[HSB 538](#) **ANTISEMITISM** (Judiciary) **Salmon** (C), **B Meyer**, **Wheeler**

Defines antisemitism using the definition from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Requires the state to use this definition when determining if violations of law have been done for a discriminatory reason and for anti-bias training. See [SSB 3010](#)

[HSB 539](#) **CHILDCARE WORKING AGE** (Human Resources) **A Meyer** (C), **Ehlert**, **Fry**

Requires the DHS to amend rules to allow 16 year-olds to working or volunteering at a childcare facility to be unsupervised.

SENATE FILES (SF 2020 – SF 2031)

[SF 2020](#) PERIOD PRODUCT AVAILABILITY ([Petersen](#)) (Human Resources)

Requires that period products (tampons and pads) be made available in the restrooms of state buildings at no charge. Requires that such products are available to residents in DHS and DOC institutions at no charge and available to the public at no charge in the restrooms of such institutions. Requires that such products be made available to the public at no charge in the restrooms of schools. Similar to [SF 34](#)

[SF 2021](#) SMOKE FREE CASINOS ([Petersen](#), [4 D's](#)) (State Government) [Dawson](#) (C), [Celsi](#), [Schultz](#)

Strikes the exemption from the Smoke-Free Act for gaming floors at casinos. See [SF 280](#), [HF 530](#)

[SF 2022](#) HOME BARBER PRACTICE ([Zaun](#)) (State Government)

Allows barbers and cosmetologists to practice in the homes of their clients.

[SF 2023](#) MILITARY 2ND INJURY FUND PAYMENTS ([Boulton](#)) (Veterans Affairs)

Makes employers liable for the permanent disability from an injury to an employee who already has a pre-existing military injury. Requires the state 2nd Injury Fund to make payments after the period for payments from the employer has ended.

[SF 2024](#) GENDER IDENTITY INSTRUCTION ([Carlin](#)) (Education)

Does not allow the school curriculum for grades 1-6 to include gender identity. Allows parents to opt out of this prohibition for the child through written consent. Allows the child to opt out of such instruction.

[SF 2025](#) BATHROOM BILL ([Carlin](#)) (Education)

Requires schools to designate multi-occupant toilets for one sex. Prohibits someone of a different biological sex from using a bathroom designated for the other biological sex. Exempts the bill from the provisions of the Iowa Civil Rights Act. see [SF 224](#)

[SF 2026](#) IOWA SCHOLAR PROGRAM ([Carlin](#)) (Education)

Raises the amounts for the Iowa Scholar Program (\$7,500 a year, \$37,500 total). Makes the priority list: 1) renewals, 2) graduates of approved teacher preparation programs, 3) minorities, 4) lowans. Similar to [SF 547](#) approved in the Senate last year.

[SF 2027](#) VIOLENT JUVENILE STUDY ([Carlin](#)) (Human Resources)

Directs the DHS to establish a study committee to consider the placement of juveniles who are in foster care and have a history of violence or sexually predatory behavior. Includes reporting requirements. see [SF 501](#)

[SF 2028](#) VACCINE CONSENT ([Carlin](#)) (Human Resources)

Requires the written consent of a parent or legal guardian in order for a minor to be vaccinated.

[SF 2029](#) 12 WEEK ABORTION BAN ([Carlin](#)) (Human Resources)

Prohibits abortions after 12 weeks. Maintains current penalties related to abortions after 20 weeks. See [SF 377](#)

[SF 2030](#) COVID IMMUNITY PROOF ([Carlin](#)) (Human Resources)

Requires an entity that requires proof of a COVID vaccination to accept proof of COVID immunity as an alternative.

[SF 2031](#) IVERMECTIN/HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE ([Carlin](#)) (Human Resources)

Deems that a doctor that prescribes ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine for COVID shall not be subject to license discipline.

SENATE FILES (SF 2032 – SF 2042)

SF 2032 VACCINATION STATUS ON DEATH CERTIFICATES (Carlin) (Human Resources)

Requires the DPH to amend death certificate forms so that the vaccination status of persons who die of COVID can be added to the death certificates.

SF 2033 VACCINE INFORMATION (Carlin) (Human Resources)

Requires health care providers who are enrolled under the CDC COVID vaccination program to give patients a COVID fact sheet with the most recent information and to document that the patient has received the fact sheet.

SF 2034 1ST DEGREE MURDER SENTENCES (Carlin) (Judiciary)

Sets the sentence for someone convicted 1st degree murder who did not commit the murder but only abetted in the crime as life with the possibility of parole after 25 years. Does not allow good time to reduce the 25 year requirement. **Juveniles:** Allows a sentence for a juvenile convicted of 1st degree murder to be life, with the possibility of parole, or life, with the possibility of parole after at least 25 years. Allows the judge to set the length of time. Does not allow good time to reduce the 25 year requirement. See [SF 126](#)

SF 2035 SERVICE DOG BREEDS (Dickey) (Local Government)

Allows local governments to exclude service dogs that belong to breeds for whom ownership is prohibited.

SF 2036 LAWYERS PAY (Dickey) (Judiciary)

Requires juries to be informed if the attorney will be paid through a percentage of a damage award and if a litigation financier has funded the lawsuit.

SF 2037 RACE SCAPEGOATING (Dickey) (Education)

Prohibits school administrators from allowing race or sex scapegoating, or related concepts, to be taught. Establishes penalties for violations, including suspension without pay.

SF 2038 COMMERCIAL VEHICLE TITLES (Dickey) (Transportation)

Allows the owner of a commercial vehicle to apply for a title within 30 days of purchase or when the vehicle is first driven on the road. Deems that an owner of any number of commercial vehicles is not subject to annual registration fees until the vehicle is driven.

SF 2039 SCHOOL RACIAL EVENTS (Dickey) (Education)

Requires schools to prohibit school-sponsored events that are open only to members of a particular race or that limit participation or assess outcomes based on race.

SF 2040 CHARTER SCHOOL DATA (Dickey) (Education)

Prohibits collecting student data on race, religion or national origin from charter schools, except as required by federal law. Prohibits the charter schools from collecting such data, except as required by federal law.

SF 2041 CHILD RELOCATION (Dickey) (Education)

Requires a parent, with joint or sole custody, who is relocating a child outside of the child's school district to give 60-days' notice to the court and non-relocating parent. Requires the court to determine if the relocation is in the best interest of the child, upon a motion from either parent. Allows the court to make changes to the custody order, based on the best interest determination.

SF 2042 STATE UNDERGRADUATE WORK (Dickey) (Education)

Requires the state universities to offer an undergraduate program that does not require a student to complete general education courses or courses outside the student's field of study.

SENATE FILES (SF 2043 – SF 2048)

SF 2043 TEACHER PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (**Dickey**) (Education)

Requires a K-12 to take the pledge of allegiance and to stand for the pledge unless the teacher has a documented disability. Prohibits teachers from speaking about the pledge to a student in a manner that can be understood to be unpatriotic or to politically influence the student.

SF 2044 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT PAYMENTS (**Dickey**) (Education)

Allows a school employee who is wrongfully accused of afflicting corporal punishment on a student to collect attorney's fees if the employee prevails in a lawsuit.

SF 2045 VOLUNTEER FF TRAINING (**Dickey**) (State Government)

Deems a member of a volunteer fire department to have completed annual training requirements if the member has completed 75% of the necessary hours, has served for ten years, makes less than \$5,000 and the volunteer FD chief approves.

SF 2046 HEALTH FACILITY BILLING (**Dickey**) (Commerce)

Requires a health care facility, or third-party biller, to give a patient an itemized bill on the request of the patient at no charge.

SF 2047 HS SPORTS/ACTIVITY CLASSES (**Dickey**) (Education)

Prohibits schools from paying fees to a HS extracurricular activity organization if the organization does not classify private schools one class higher than enrollment would require. Does not apply to private schools in the largest classes.

SF 2048 CHILD SUPPORT (**Dickey**) (Human Resources)

Allows a child support obligor to ask that court clerks and the Collection Services Center to disburse received payments only into an account for the direct support of the child. Requires the recipient to keep a written accounting and to forward it and allows the court to punish recipients for failing to do so. Contains other provisions.

SENATE STUDY BILLS (SSB 3025 – SSB 3032)

SSB 3025 SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY (Judiciary) **Reichman** (C), **Johnson**, **Kinney**

Allows any sex offender to apply at any time for modification of registry requirements but establishes timelines for offenders and other criteria. Allows a court to reduce the amount of time an offender must register. Strikes certain requirements for approval by the Judicial District/DCS. (DPS)

SSB 3026 OVERCOMING PATERNITY (Judiciary) **J Taylor** (C), **Bisignano**, **Rowley**

Allows a juvenile court to order on its authority, or on a motion from a party, blood/DNA testing for an established father and the child. Requires the court to issue an order overcoming paternity in CHINA cases if the testing shows that the established father is not the biological father and the established father agrees with overcoming paternity, or if the father disagrees, for the court to find that it is in the best interest of the child to overcome paternity. Requires the district court to take judicial notice of the case. Deems a father whose paternity has been overcome to not be a parent for juvenile justice proceedings.

SSB 3027 NO CONTACT ORDERS (Judiciary) **Reichman** (C), **Kinney**, **Rowley**

Requires courts to extend the period for a non-contact order for five years on the expiration of the order unless the defendant applies to end the order within 90 days and the court finds the defendant is no longer a threat.

SSB 3028 BROADCASTING RECORDS (Judiciary) **R Smith** (C), **Bisignano**, **Schultz**

Deems all of the records of the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board (videos, electronic storage, documents and other information) as public records subject to examination, unless otherwise confidential. Prohibits the assertion of intellectual property rights more than ten years after the record was created.

SSB 3029 DISASTER PROTECTIONS (State Government) **Cournoyer** (C), **Boulton**, **Guth**

Gives state agencies, and employees, officers and agents, protection from liability for good-faith actions taken in response to a state or federal disaster proclamation. (DHS/EM)

SSB 3030 NO SMOKING AREAS (Commerce) **Schultz** (C) **Johnson**, **Lykam**

Strikes specific requirements in regard to placing no-smoking signs in areas where smoking is prohibited by Code. Allows a person in control of property not covered under the smoking prohibitions to make it a non-smoking area by placing a sign.

SSB 3031 ICN PURCHASES (Commerce) **Goodwin** (C), **Bisignano**, **Williams**

Strikes the cap that purchases by the ITTC for the ICN cannot exceed without approval. (ITTC)

SSB 3032 ECONOMIC PROGRAMS (Commerce) **Koelker** (C), **Goodwin**, **Mathis**

Moves the repeal of the Iowa Energy Center to 2027. Allows the EDA to designate a county as economically distressed for the High Quality jobs program due to recent significant layoffs. Allows the EDA to extend the deadline for a housing project under the workforce housing program. (EDA)

MAJ GEN BENJAMIN CORELL-CONDITION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD (FULL TEXT)

Good morning everyone, and thank you for the warm welcome. President Chapman, Speaker Grassley, Governor Reynolds, Lieutenant Governor Gregg, distinguished members of the Iowa General Assembly, and my fellow Iowans. Thank you for inviting me to address this distinguished body and to once again share the story of our Iowa National Guard.

It is a tremendous honor to stand before you today representing the dedicated men and women of the Iowa National Guard. On their behalf, I want to say "THANK YOU" for all you have done over the years to assist us in building a professional, world class organization. We are so very grateful for the strong support we receive from the members of this general assembly. I want to publicly thank Governor Reynolds and Lt. Governor Gregg for their leadership and support of all Iowans who serve, or have served our Nation and our State in uniform. I continue to be appreciative of your trust and confidence in me as I serve as Iowa's 27th Adjutant General.

I am extremely honored to lead and represent the Soldiers and Airmen of the Iowa National Guard. I truly thank this legislative body for your continued support of the Iowa National Guard. The resources and support that you provide make it possible for the Iowa National Guard to be prepared to respond to the needs of our State and our Nation. I realize it is our people, the individual members of the Iowa National Guard, our families, and our employers who continue to sacrifice their time and talents that allow us to be always ready to respond when needed. Our success is noteworthy considering the challenging and dynamic environment we're operating in, not only with COVID -19, but also with the fluid situations that exist around the world. Since the attacks on 9/11, we've mobilized and deployed more Soldiers and Airmen than any time in recent history. More than 17,000 men and women serving in the Iowa National Guard have deployed in support of numerous campaigns around the globe.

This past year, twenty years after the attacks on our country, we all watched as the last U.S. service members left Afghanistan. For me, like many others who served there, it was difficult to watch. I do realize these past two decades have not been an easy chapter in our Nation's history, nor have they been without setbacks and sacrifice. Almost every community in Iowa has been affected in some way as our all-volunteer military met the security needs of our Nation.

Sadly, not all of our brothers and sisters returned home. Twenty members of our Iowa National Guard have made the ultimate sacrifice while defending the nation since 9/11. Today we have a new generation of heroes in our midst. The men and women who returned home after serving in the Global War on Terrorism are carrying freedom's torch in the same proud tradition as veterans of previous conflicts. Like the veterans of World War II, our next "Greatest Generation" have returned with a renewed sense of purpose and energy, eager to contribute their skills and talents to improving life for their neighbors and in their communities here in Iowa.

The Soldiers and Airmen of the Iowa National Guard answered the call on 9/11, and have served continuously since. We haven't had the wealth of such experience and talent concentrated in our state since the end of World War II. I want to thank the thousands of Soldiers and Airmen and their families for their time, service and sacrifice. Through them, the Iowa National Guard has made a difference in the world we live in. Although the war in Afghanistan has now ended, the demand placed on the Iowa National Guard remains high.

Iowa's Soldiers and Airmen have continued to deploy in support of our Nation's defense, filling the operational requirements of our Nation's armed forces around the world and here at home. During this past year, the Iowa National Guard played a critical role in both overseas and domestic operations for our Nation. *(continued)*

MAJ GEN CORELL-CONDITION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD (FULL TEXT)(CONTINUED)

In 2021, over 1,600 Iowa Soldiers and over 200 Iowa Airmen served on active duty missions throughout Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. 620 Soldiers from the 1st-133d Infantry Battalion, deployed to Qatar and the UAE in support of Operation Spartan Shield. This was the fifth federal mobilization for the Ironman Battalion in recent years including a 22-month mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005 through 2007. Members of the 1st-113th Cavalry Squadron along with members of 1st-168th Infantry Battalion deployed 160 Soldiers to support Operation Enduring Freedom, in the Horn of Africa. The 1st-194th Field Artillery Battalion, deployed 250 Soldiers that supported security operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed 360 Soldiers to Kosovo supporting NATO's KFOR mission focused on security and stability of the Western Balkans. The 734th Regional Support Group deployed 80 Soldiers to Iraq and Kuwait and provided Forward Operations Base Life-Support in the Central Command area of responsibility. The 3654 Support Maintenance Company deployed 150 Soldiers to Kuwait maintaining military equipment at 22 separate locations within the U.S. Central Command. 75 Soldiers from the 171st Aviation Regiment deployed to Kuwait and supported Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Spartan Shield.

We have now welcomed home almost all of these units, our Soldiers and our Airmen as they successfully completed these overseas missions this past year. In addition to our overseas mission requirements, we have continued to provide Iowa National Guard members to respond here at home. In the last few years, we've been as busy on the home front as we have been overseas.

Last January, we sent 265 Iowa Soldiers and Airmen to assist federal agencies with security missions during the 59th Presidential Inauguration. This past October, we welcomed home 24 Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team who spent a year supporting federal operations on the Southwest Border. As they returned, we sent off several dozen Soldiers from the 376th Aviation Detachment, serving on federal duty supporting Customs and Border operations on the Southwest border again this year.

This past November, 65 Airmen from both the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City and the 132d Wing in Des Moines deployed stateside to support Operation Allies Welcome. Operation Allies Welcome is the ongoing effort to bring Americans home from Afghanistan and bring vulnerable Afghans to the United States and support their resettlement.

This past year saw a significant number of deployments for the Iowa National Guard both at home and across the globe. I could not be any prouder of these great men and women who make so many sacrifices to continue to serve in our Iowa National Guard. While executing all these missions, our units still found time to demonstrate that they are among the best in the nation at what they do. The 185th Air Refueling Wing, in Sioux City, was awarded its 15th overall, and 5th consecutive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The 132d Air Wing, in Des Moines, was awarded its 16th overall, and 6th consecutive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. These accomplishments are a direct reflection of the training and readiness of the Iowa National Guard, along with the individual commitment, motivation, and pride of our members.

While we are proud of our past accomplishments, we now look forward to the year ahead. The Iowa National Guard will continue to be asked to support our Nation's federal missions overseas. We have alerted several units for possible deployment later this year. We anticipate we will deploy members of the 209th Medical Company from Iowa City and members of the 1133rd Transportation Company from Mason City to support Operation Atlantic Resolve in Poland. Atlantic Resolve is part of the Deterrence Initiative focused in Eastern Europe, which enables the U.S. to provide deterrence to adversaries while supporting our NATO partners.

(continued)

MAJ GEN CORELL-CONDITION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD (FULL TEXT)(CONTINUED)

As we continue to meet the demands of deployments and respond to our State and Nation's homeland security needs, we remain mindful of the unpredictable nature of the world we live in - A world where extremist ideologies and great power competitions are realities that must be dealt with. We must maintain resilience and provide responsive capabilities from our all-volunteer force.

We as a Nation must choose wisely when we want to use our military power, and then clearly define what the desired end state is for the missions that we ask our military to perform. One way the Iowa National Guard continues to support stability and peace efforts around the world is through our State Partnership Program relationship with the Kosovo Security Force, or KSF under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

Last year, the Iowa National Guard and Kosovo Security Force accomplished an historic co-deployment to the Middle East. KSF logistics officers deployed with us serving in the 734th Regional Support Group and KSF maintenance personnel deployed with us serving in the 3654 Maintenance Company. All KSF members were based out of Kuwait supporting Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. This deployment demonstrated the KSF's operational readiness for future missions while building trust and interoperability for additional opportunities for Kosovo to be a security partner to stand side by side with our partners and allies. This strong partnership with Kosovo didn't happen overnight. It developed over years of engagements that built relationships through mutual goals, respect, and shared interests. This past November, the Iowa National Guard held a series of events celebrating our decade-long partnership with Kosovo. This anniversary was celebrated not only with senior leadership of the KSF, but also with senior Kosovo government leaders such as the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense, demonstrating the level of importance that we each place on this relationship. We will continue to strengthen this partnership. We have plans for several more training opportunities this year as we work for additional co-deployment opportunities between the KSF and the Iowa National Guard.

Just like our relationship with Kosovo, partnerships within our State are equally important and vital to our success. When talking about the Iowa National Guard, people often focus on our state and overseas missions. But we can't forget that the Iowa National Guard is a community-based organization with an important community mission. Through interagency partnerships with local and State partners, we strive to add value for the people of Iowa. The West Des Moines Armory project is a great example of this. It involves a partnership between the City of West Des Moines, West Des Moines Fire Department and the Iowa National Guard. This 20 million dollar project, 75% federal and 25% state-funded, will posture the organization well into the future.

I thank this legislative body for your support on this project that was approved last legislative session. Another example of interagency partnership we are working on is the concept of a Midwest Traffic Incident Management Training Center. This training facility would be constructed on Camp Dodge facilitating driver training, accident investigation, and on-scene management of roadside incidents for the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Iowa National Guard. The Iowa Department of Transportation has the lead on this initiative but the Iowa National Guard is in full support of the concept and a partner in this effort.

These types of partnerships facilitate our ability as a state to respond rapidly to emerging threats to help our fellow Iowans during times of need. These partnerships, at every level, reflect the sense of community and teamwork that Iowans expect and depend on. As I've said before, my vision for the Iowa National Guard is focused on always being ready, whether defending our country or coming to the aid of Iowans during times of need. *(continued)*

MAJ GEN CORELL-CONDITION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD (FULL TEXT)(CONTINUED)

This requires us to be responsible stewards of our resources, ensuring our organization is ready for any task or mission put before us in order to be responsive to the needs of our State and Nation. The Iowa National Guard is focused on four lines of effort to help accomplish this vision: Fielding a Competent and Ready Force; Maintaining the Right Force Structure in Iowa; Developing and Maintaining Sustainable Infrastructure across the state; and Caring for our Service Members, our Employers, and our Families. To meet the needs here at home and the security requirements abroad, the Iowa National Guard must remain focused on fielding a competent and ready force.

We often talk about the impact federal funding has with the Iowa National Guard's support to the state's economy. But just as important, is the impact in terms of human capital created by our members returning from military training or from deployments. This training and operational experience is a value-added component that Citizen Soldiers and Airmen bring back to their military and civilian jobs, enhancing the value they provide to their workplace. This operational experience and training is something impossible to replicate, regardless of time or resources available to our civilian employers.

When our Soldiers and Airmen leave Iowa for a deployment, they embark on a journey that leaves them forever changed. They are challenged both physically and mentally in ways that are hard to imagine. They are charged with performing, often in dangerous and inhospitable environments, incredible tasks day in and day out. Yet, they do so with a steely professionalism and determination that few who have not experienced this can understand. And when they complete their mission, they return home to their families, friends, employers, and communities to pick up where they left off.

For the great majority of these individuals, they return to Iowa more focused, more disciplined, and generally more capable than when they left. Ensuring that our Soldiers and Airmen are Always Ready to respond comes with challenges, challenges that are no different than those being experienced across this country. This leads into our second line of effort: Maintain Force Structure. Businesses and organizations across the country struggle to maintain their readiness and ability to operate at full capacity due to the lack of personnel.

The sudden emergence of COVID has delivered, and continues to deliver, a severe blow to our economy, our businesses, and our communities. Federal vaccine mandates will no doubt impact our organization, as members must decide to either get vaccinated, or be forced to leave military service.

We see ourselves as complementary to our full-time Iowa employers. As a primarily part-time work force, our members typically enter our ranks as recent high school graduates. By utilizing the job training and education benefits, they enter the workforce as disciplined, skilled, and educated employees. Regarding education benefits, last year the number of service members that utilized the Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship increased by 18%. The most recent fall semester has seen our highest benefit usage ever: \$2.8 million in assistance. That's Iowans serving Iowa, going to Iowa schools, investing in Iowa's future. It is only from the support of this legislative body and your commitment to fund the Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship that we are able to provide this incentive.

This not only benefits our men and women, but also the communities and employers across the state where they live and work. I am proud to say that in 2021, the Iowa Army National Guard's strength numbers were 102% of our authorized strength. Additionally, 81% of eligible soldiers chose to reenlist and continue to serve in the Iowa Army National Guard. The Iowa Air National Guard is doing equally well. In 2021, we finished the year at 101% percent of assigned strength, with a retention rate of 93%. *(continued)*

MAJ GEN CORELL-CONDITION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD (FULL TEXT)(CONTINUED)

Recruiting and retention is a critical task for us; when our ranks are full, we maintain the flexibility to perform all of our State and Federal missions when we are called upon. The Soldiers and Airmen we are recruiting today are high quality young men and women, lowan's who join knowing they could be called upon to serve our Nation and State at any time. This success didn't happen by accident. It is the result of the hard work of our members working together as a team-building and community-based organization that the people of Iowa can trust and depend on today and in the future.

Our third line of effort is our ability to Maintain and Develop Sustainable Infrastructure. Part of my responsibility as the Adjutant General is to look to the future and ensure the Iowa National Guard is postured for continued success. Stewardship of the resources entrusted to us requires us to be responsible not only for our people, but also for the State and Federal resources with which we are entrusted. Iowa National Guard's annual federal dollar investment into Infrastructure spending in an average year is over \$25 million dollars, putting money back into our economy and providing Iowa companies with projects and employment for their workforce. In the past 21 years, the Iowa Army National Guard has completed major modernization projects on 33 of its older Readiness Centers and Maintenance Facilities across the state.

Our most recent Readiness Center renovation was in Carroll, a facility that had not received any major renovations since it was built in 1987. This \$2.5 million renovation was completed last year and included updated mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems - paid for with both federal and state funds. These types of renovations, using Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Funds, allow us to leverage federal dollars to ensure that our infrastructure can support our ability to quickly mobilize and respond to meet our State and Federal obligations. I appreciate this body's continued support with the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Funding. Completing these updates and renovations is of particular importance allowing us to safeguard continuous operations and prevent disruptions when disasters strike, whether natural or manmade.

Our ability to mass our forces across the state in key locations was especially important during the Eastern Iowa Derecho, where we staged Iowa National Guard members at our Cedar Rapids Readiness Center in order to quickly assist utility companies in electrical power restoration. Another way we are improving our state response ability across agencies is through our Continuity of Operations initiative. This effort will allow all State and local partners a redundant backup system in order to facilitate essential functions and maintain communications across the state in the event of any action that takes down our state's primary communications system.

Through State and Federal funding sources, we are investing in capabilities that will make Iowa's emergency management systems more responsive. This will prevent lapses in critical communication capabilities during a crisis, ensuring our ability to meet the expectations of lowans in times of need.

Finally, I want to share with you a little about a few of our Soldiers, Airmen, and Families. As I've said before, without our people, the Iowa National Guard would not exist. We recognize that military service places significant demands and stress not only on our service members but also on their families.

Today I have with me several members of the Iowa National Guard I want to introduce to you: I'd like to first introduce Private First Class (PFC) Taylor Patterson. PFC Patterson is the 1st female in Iowa National Guard history to enlist, and become qualified as an infantry soldier after successfully completing infantry training at Fort Benning, Georgia. PFC Patterson is from Ankeny and is attending Iowa State University studying animal science as she breaks barriers for others to follow. *(continued)*

MAJ GEN CORELL-CONDITION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD (FULL TEXT)(CONTINUED)

Next, I would like to introduce to you Chief Warrant Officer 5 Stephen L. Swisher. Chief Swisher retired this past November as the longest serving member in Iowa National Guard history having actively served our State and Nation for 44 years, 7 months and 18 days. Chief Swisher enlisted on December 2, 1976, at the age of 17. Chief Swisher and his wife Lori live in Glenwood.

Please join me in recognizing both of these outstanding members of the Iowa National Guard. Our people are truly what makes our organization world class.

I want to make you aware of a program we are using that helps make the Iowa National Guard unique and stand out among others while adding value to our communities and our State. It is called the Expedited Citizenship and Sponsorship (ECAS) Program. This program allows the Iowa National Guard to help Soldiers gain U.S. citizenship after completing at least one year of Iowa National Guard service. We began supporting this program in April 2020. Since then, at least 45 Iowa Soldiers from 18 different countries have gained U.S. citizenship and continue to serve as Iowa Citizen Soldiers. This program is changing lives while adding value and diversity to our organization and to our State.

In closing, if we are to be truly successful in our mission, we must continue look into the future. We must be prepared for what the world will look like in the years to come. There are complicated security challenges emerging in our world everyday and we know that we must always be ready to respond when called. Trust that we are well postured to fulfill any mission that may arise whether it be for the people of Iowa or for our Nation - From our strong strength numbers, to our sound infrastructure management, our solid partnerships, and the consistent support from communities across Iowa. Most importantly with our greatest resource, the thousands of Iowa men and women who are willing to stand beside me and answer the call to serve our Nation and our State. I assure each of you that the condition of our Iowa National Guard is now, and will continue to remain, strong.

Your Iowa National Guard has always been there, we've always answered the call, and we have never failed a mission. We are ALWAYS READY! Thank you!