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SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...you can avoid combat, we should want to make the maximum usage of the talent, knowledge, and ability of these people. So if you have a noncom who is able to do these types of things...suppose he or she was a noncommissioned officer but did these very duties in private life. He or she could not bring that experience and expertise into the Guard and get this appointment, because he or she had not been a commissioned officer for four years before the appointment is to be made. So if we have a situation where the ranks have been decimated and there are no commissioned officers left, but there are these duties that are going to be carried out even if you have a skeleton force, these positions could not be filled by anybody, because you don't have any commissioned officers. You have nobody who'd been a commissioned officer for...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...four years prior to this appointment being given. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may continue, Senator Chambers. Your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Maybe what I'm saying, maybe what I'm discussing seems way off the radar screen to everybody else. But prior to what happened in Iraq, a lot of people never thought that people from the National Guard would be sent into combat, not only sent into combat, but told that they would be there for a certain period of time, then, as the end of that period drew nigh, be told, well, that's canceled, you're going to be here longer, we don't know for sure exactly how long, so all we can tell you is that you'll be here for however long it takes. Now, I was in the military a long time ago. But you knew when you were going to get out. And when they sent people for overseas tours, they knew when their tour would be up. This is one of those situations where there was such poor planning, people who had no experience in the military ignored what the experienced military persons at the Pentagon were saying ought