



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 23 2012

The Honorable Terry Branstad  
Governor of Iowa  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Branstad:

In February, I asked Air Force leadership to work with you on various options regarding Air National Guard force structure in light of feedback we received from you and others about our FY13-17 budget.

In light of the approaching authorization committee markups on the Hill, I have provided our current assessment to committee leaders in the enclosed letter.

The Department's senior leadership and I have appreciated the opportunity to engage with you over the last several months on your perspectives and feedback on our FY13-17 budget, and we look forward to continuing to do so regarding defense support to civil authorities.

Recognizing the lead responsibilities of governors for the public safety of their citizens in disasters and emergencies, I have also asked my team to establish a sustained process with the Council of Governors to exchange views, information, and advice on state civil support requirements. Given the notable success that the Council has achieved to strengthen unity of effort between the states and DoD, I am confident that we can make similar progress to clarify and appropriately account for civil support requirements in the future. I look forward to working with you to have such a process in place as DoD develops its plans and priorities for FY14.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the Secretary of Defense, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

cc:  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Chief, NGB, General Craig R. McKinley  
Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Stockton



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 23 2012

The Honorable Christine Gregoire  
Governor of Washington  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

In February, I asked Air Force leadership to work with you on various options regarding Air National Guard force structure in light of feedback we received from you and others about our FY13-17 budget.

In light of the approaching authorization committee markups on the Hill, I have provided our current assessment to committee leaders in the enclosed letter.

The Department's senior leadership and I have appreciated the opportunity to engage with you over the last several months on your perspectives and feedback on our FY13-17 budget, and we look forward to continuing to do so regarding defense support to civil authorities.

Recognizing the lead responsibilities of governors for the public safety of their citizens in disasters and emergencies, I have also asked my team to establish a sustained process with the Council of Governors to exchange views, information, and advice on state civil support requirements. Given the notable success that the Council has achieved to strengthen unity of effort between the states and DoD, I am confident that we can make similar progress to clarify and appropriately account for civil support requirements in the future. I look forward to working with you to have such a process in place as DoD develops its plans and priorities for FY14.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the Secretary of Defense, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

cc:  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Chief, NGB, General Craig R. McKinley  
Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Stockton



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 23 2012

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In February, I asked Air Force leadership to work with the Council of Governors on various options regarding Air National Guard force structure in light of feedback we received about our FY13-17 budget.

As you undoubtedly appreciate, my first responsibility is to ensure that we have a military force structure that is ready and capable to defend the nation. In light of the changing global security environment and fiscal realities, the Department undertook a comprehensive reassessment of our defense strategy, which President Obama announced in January 2012. Based on that strategy, the Air Force analyzed the proper mix of capabilities to ensure we can achieve our defense objectives on a day-to-day basis and surge air power in the event of a national crisis. This force structure also had to be cost-effective so that the Department could achieve savings of \$487 billion over 10 years as necessitated by the Budget Control Act.

After further review, the Air Force has determined that we can mitigate impacts to affected states with a \$400 million package that would maintain an additional 24 C-130 aircraft in the Air National Guard. We recognize the important role that these lift aircraft play in our support to civil authorities and to states – particularly in the event of natural disasters.

I strongly urge you to consider this proposal, which we believe sustains our national defense requirements and is responsive to concerns raised by the Council of Governors.

Recognizing the lead responsibilities of governors for the public safety of their citizens in disasters and emergencies, I will also be reaching out to the Council of Governors to establish a sustained process to exchange views, information, and advice on state civil support requirements. Given the notable success that the Council and the Department has achieved to strengthen unity of effort between the states and the DoD, I am confident that we can make similar progress to clarify and appropriately account for civil support requirements in the future. I would expect to have such a process in place before the President's FY14 budget is submitted early next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the Secretary of Defense, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

cc:  
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Iowa Governor Terry Branstad  
Washington Governor Christine Gregoire  
Chief, NGB, General Craig R. McKinley



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 23 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In February, I asked Air Force leadership to work with the Council of Governors on various options regarding Air National Guard force structure in light of feedback we received about our FY13-17 budget.

As you undoubtedly appreciate, my first responsibility is to ensure that we have a military force structure that is ready and capable to defend the nation. In light of the changing global security environment and fiscal realities, the Department undertook a comprehensive reassessment of our defense strategy, which President Obama announced in January 2012. Based on that strategy, the Air Force analyzed the proper mix of capabilities to ensure we can achieve our defense objectives on a day-to-day basis and surge air power in the event of a national crisis. This force structure also had to be cost-effective so that the Department could achieve savings of \$487 billion over 10 years as necessitated by the Budget Control Act.

After further review, the Air Force has determined that we can mitigate impacts to affected states with a \$400 million package that would maintain an additional 24 C-130 aircraft in the Air National Guard. We recognize the important role that these lift aircraft play in our support to civil authorities and to states – particularly in the event of natural disasters.

I strongly urge you to consider this proposal, which we believe sustains our national defense requirements and is responsive to concerns raised by the Council of Governors.

Recognizing the lead responsibilities of governors for the public safety of their citizens in disasters and emergencies, I will also be reaching out to the Council of Governors to establish a sustained process to exchange views, information, and advice on state civil support requirements. Given the notable success that the Council and the Department has achieved to strengthen unity of effort between the states and the DoD, I am confident that we can make similar progress to clarify and appropriately account for civil support requirements in the future. I would expect to have such a process in place before the President's FY14 budget is submitted early next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the Secretary of Defense, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

cc:  
The Honorable Tad Cochran  
Vice Chairman  
Iowa Governor Terry Branstad  
Washington Governor Christine Gregoire  
Chief, NGB, General Craig R. McKinley



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 23 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In February, I asked Air Force leadership to work with the Council of Governors on various options regarding Air National Guard force structure in light of feedback we received about our FY13-17 budget.

As you undoubtedly appreciate, my first responsibility is to ensure that we have a military force structure that is ready and capable to defend the nation. In light of the changing global security environment and fiscal realities, the Department undertook a comprehensive reassessment of our defense strategy, which President Obama announced in January 2012. Based on that strategy, the Air Force analyzed the proper mix of capabilities to ensure we can achieve our defense objectives on a day-to-day basis and surge air power in the event of a national crisis. This force structure also had to be cost-effective so that the Department could achieve savings of \$487 billion over 10 years as necessitated by the Budget Control Act.

After further review, the Air Force has determined that we can mitigate impacts to affected states with a \$400 million package that would maintain an additional 24 C-130 aircraft in the Air National Guard. We recognize the important role that these lift aircraft play in our support to civil authorities and to states – particularly in the event of natural disasters.

I strongly urge you to consider this proposal, which we believe sustains our national defense requirements and is responsive to concerns raised by the Council of Governors.

Recognizing the lead responsibilities of governors for the public safety of their citizens in disasters and emergencies, I will also be reaching out to the Council of Governors to establish a sustained process to exchange views, information, and advice on state civil support requirements. Given the notable success that the Council and the Department has achieved to strengthen unity of effort between the states and the DoD, I am confident that we can make similar progress to clarify and appropriately account for civil support requirements in the future. I would expect to have such a process in place before the President's FY14 budget is submitted early next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the Secretary of Defense, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

cc:

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Iowa Governor Terry Branstad  
Washington Governor Christine Gregoire  
Chief, NGB, General Craig R. McKinley



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 23 2012

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In February, I asked Air Force leadership to work with the Council of Governors on various options regarding Air National Guard force structure in light of feedback we received about our FY13-17 budget.

As you undoubtedly appreciate, my first responsibility is to ensure that we have a military force structure that is ready and capable to defend the nation. In light of the changing global security environment and fiscal realities, the Department undertook a comprehensive reassessment of our defense strategy, which President Obama announced in January 2012. Based on that strategy, the Air Force analyzed the proper mix of capabilities to ensure we can achieve our defense objectives on a day-to-day basis and surge air power in the event of a national crisis. This force structure also had to be cost-effective so that the Department could achieve savings of \$487 billion over 10 years as necessitated by the Budget Control Act.

After further review, the Air Force has determined that we can mitigate impacts to affected states with a \$400 million package that would maintain an additional 24 C-130 aircraft in the Air National Guard. We recognize the important role that these lift aircraft play in our support to civil authorities and to states – particularly in the event of natural disasters.

I strongly urge you to consider this proposal, which we believe sustains our national defense requirements and is responsive to concerns raised by the Council of Governors.

Recognizing the lead responsibilities of governors for the public safety of their citizens in disasters and emergencies, I will also be reaching out to the Council of Governors to establish a sustained process to exchange views, information, and advice on state civil support requirements. Given the notable success that the Council and the Department has achieved to strengthen unity of effort between the states and the DoD, I am confident that we can make similar progress to clarify and appropriately account for civil support requirements in the future. I would expect to have such a process in place before the President's FY14 budget is submitted early next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the Secretary of Defense, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

cc:  
The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
Iowa Governor Terry Branstad  
Washington Governor Christine Gregoire  
Chief, NGB, General Craig R. McKinley



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 23 2012

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In February, I asked Air Force leadership to work with the Council of Governors on various options regarding Air National Guard force structure in light of feedback we received about our FY13-17 budget.

As you undoubtedly appreciate, my first responsibility is to ensure that we have a military force structure that is ready and capable to defend the nation. In light of the changing global security environment and fiscal realities, the Department undertook a comprehensive reassessment of our defense strategy, which President Obama announced in January 2012. Based on that strategy, the Air Force analyzed the proper mix of capabilities to ensure we can achieve our defense objectives on a day-to-day basis and surge air power in the event of a national crisis. This force structure also had to be cost-effective so that the Department could achieve savings of \$487 billion over 10 years as necessitated by the Budget Control Act.

After further review, the Air Force has determined that we can mitigate impacts to affected states with a \$400 million package that would maintain an additional 24 C-130 aircraft in the Air National Guard. We recognize the important role that these lift aircraft play in our support to civil authorities and to states – particularly in the event of natural disasters.

I strongly urge you to consider this proposal, which we believe sustains our national defense requirements and is responsive to concerns raised by the Council of Governors.

Recognizing the lead responsibilities of governors for the public safety of their citizens in disasters and emergencies, I will also be reaching out to the Council of Governors to establish a sustained process to exchange views, information, and advice on state civil support requirements. Given the notable success that the Council and the Department has achieved to strengthen unity of effort between the states and the DoD, I am confident that we can make similar progress to clarify and appropriately account for civil support requirements in the future. I would expect to have such a process in place before the President's FY14 budget is submitted early next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. M. ...", with a long, sweeping underline.

cc:  
The Honorable John McCain  
Ranking Member  
Iowa Governor Terry Branstad  
Washington Governor Christine Gregoire  
Chief, NGB, General Craig R. McKinley