



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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25 April 2013

General Gordon R. Sullivan
United States Army (Ret.)
President

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Defense Appropriation Sub – Committee
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army and as a former Army Chief of Staff, I write to urge you to increase Army funding for FY14 from the levels proposed in the administration's budget. From my perspective, in an exponentially more dangerous world, we are about to fund our Army at a level that will leave it in stasis, at best, or more likely falling backward into unreadiness.

While I hesitate to use the term, "hollow Army", what I see in the immediate future is furloughed Army civilians, most undeployed active component units untrained for immediate deployment, Army pilot training backlogged, flying hours cut, crew certification falling, deferred battle loss replacement that will take years to recover from, deferred facilities maintenance that will negatively impact the quality of life of Soldiers and their families, and cancelled schooling and individual Soldier and unit training that will lower professional leader development and unit readiness for future operations.

The American people expect their defenders to be ready for optimum performance and do not expect a budget that institutionalizes unreadiness. I believe the American taxpayer will fund a robust defense force regardless of troubled economic times. Do we want to send those who wish us harm the message that our Army is not trained and ready, with leaders that are unschooled, pilots that are not yet qualified, Soldiers that need more field exercises and equipment that will be repaired in a year or two? In a world we share with rogue states like North Korea and Iran, as well as violent extremists and terrorists, I believe the answer is "no!" I urge you to provide additional funding that will get our Army and our other armed services to "yes, we are ready."

Sincerely,



GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired

GRS/wbl