



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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2 August 2013

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

The Honorable Howard McKeon
United States House of Representatives
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon:

On behalf of the Association of the United States Army, and as a former Army Chief of Staff, I write to express my serious concern that the effects of sequestration on the readiness of our Army are not clearly understood by the Congress or the American people. As Chair of the Armed Services Committee, I urge you to reach out to your fellow members of Congress and seek an immediate solution to the fiscal uncertainty wrought by the imposition of sequestration.

As has been clearly shown by Secretary of Defense Hagel, the effects of continuing to impose the costs of sequestration on the Department of Defense will cause the Army to fall back into unreadiness. A hollow Army with furloughed civilians, tiered levels of unit readiness, Army pilot training backlogged, flying hours cut, crew certification falling, deferred battle loss replacement that will take years to recover from, deferred facilities maintenance, and cancelled schooling and unit Soldier training that lowers professional leader development and unit readiness will be the legacy of the senselessness of sequestration cuts.

While I understand that the Army must be smaller in an era of fiscal constraint, I cannot emphasize enough that sequestration, with its rigid implementation and lack of responsible oversight, does not allow the Army leadership the funding certainty or financial flexibility to responsibly structure, fund, and maintain the Army of the future.

I know that you and I share the principle that the defense of the nation is a shared responsibility of the executive and legislative branches as well as those who serve. It strikes me that what has been created by sequestration is atmosphere of irresponsibility in which it is allowable to say "it is not my problem", when in reality it is a problem we must all work together to solve.

The fiscal process must be put back in order so that our Army and its fellow services can maintain readiness and their ability to defend the nation. Again, I implore you to remove the specter of sequestration from defense funding.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon R. Sullivan".

GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired

GRS/wbl

U.S. Senate: Reid, McConnell, Durbin, Cochran, Levin, Inhofe & Reed

U.S. House: Boehner, Pelosi, Carter, Ruppertsburger, McKeon, A. Smith, C.W. Bill Young & Visclosky