



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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15 July 2013

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

The Honorable Gerald Connolly
United States House of Representatives
424 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Connolly:

I write on behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army to thank you for sending the 3 July letter to Secretary of Defense Hagel concerning the issue of Living Quarters Allowance (LQA) for federal civilians serving overseas. The association also sent a letter to Secretary Hagel in which we said that he should take action to waive reimbursement of the LQA for approximately 659 federal civilian employees.

Like you, our association does not want the Department of Defense actions to create financial hardship, erode civilian personnel willingness to serve overseas, or negatively affect readiness. We urge elimination of the "catch 22" requirement that forces employees to accept financial responsibility in order to receive a waiver of indebtedness which implies personal fault where the government is clearly in error.

Along with you, the Association of the United States Army urges the Department of Defense to reconsider its handling of this situation and make it clear that overseas federal civilian personnel will not be penalized for the department's mistake. Again, thank you for your interest in the issue and for highlighting possible non-detrimental solutions to a problem that overseas federal civilians did not create.

Sincerely,



GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired

GRS/wbl