



**NGAUS**

**NDIA**



**Reserve  
Organization of  
America**

August 4, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We (seven defense-related associations) are requesting your support to prevent a looming threat to national security – one that would reverse gains made under your administration.

The last three years of increased defense funding, requested by you and approved by Congress, have allowed the U.S. military to improve combat readiness and to begin to address vitally needed capabilities to deter or win potential future conflict. Our near-peer competitors are catching up to our asymmetric capabilities, and both current readiness and future warfighting capabilities are threatened by tightening fiscal pressures that will mortgage future defense funding and recent national security gains.

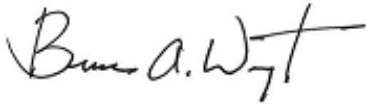
The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 defense budget, currently being deliberated in Congress, is essentially flat, leaving the services in an unenviable position of trading off legacy programs to fund future modernization. Those programs will not be fielded and available to the warfighters for several years. That jeopardizes our nation today and in the future.

We are advocating for 3 to 5 percent annual growth in FYs 2022 and 2023 to maintain the strength of our national security. This modest increase, highlighted as essential by the National Defense Strategy Commission and many other defense experts, would further bolster military readiness, enable modernization, and improve and support programs for the uniformed and civilian workforce responsible for building and maintaining the world's premier military force.

Prudent spending remains a priority for America's defense, and several major reform initiatives have reduced costs and improved the purchasing power of the taxpayer's valuable resources. More than \$5 billion has already been reallocated. The Defense Department is becoming more efficient and the savings are being invested in national priorities such as nuclear modernization, missile defense and 5G communications.

A flat FY 2021 defense budget will be more problematic if it is followed by flat or declining defense budget cuts in FYs 2022 and 2023.

We share your concern that America's national security should be our top priority and believe an annual 3 to 5 percent real growth increase in the FYs 2022 and 2023 defense budgets will provide the warfighters the tools they need to preserve our national security. As you prepare future budgets, we ask you to consider our request for a Department of Defense budget increase in FYs 2022 and 2023.



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President  
Air Force Association



Carter F. Ham  
General, U.S. Army Retired  
President & CEO  
Association of the United States Army



Dan Feliz  
Chairman  
Association of the United States Navy



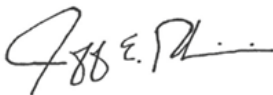
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