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March, 29 2012

Recently, I wrote on behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army to urge immediate congressional action to prevent the triggering of sequestration in January, 2013 as it pertains to the Department of Defense (DoD).

I explained the need for action now, in part, because defense contractors must plan for the effects of sequestration far in advance of its implementation so they can continue to support vital DoD equipment and service requirements.

While some of the rationale for my previous letter was anecdotal, today I forward two documents that I believe are instructive and illustrate not only the impact of sequestration on the defense industrial base, but also the second and third order “ripple effects” that industrial preparation for sequestration will prompt.

As Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter has said, “A strong, technologically vibrant, and financially successful defense industry is in the national interest.” Indeed, the defense industrial base is part of our force structure.

The attached documents show that implementation of sequestration would severely damage that defense industrial base as a commercially viable enterprise, as a reliable and responsive provider of urgent wartime needs, and as a national strategic asset that is indispensable to the defense of the United States.

I urge you to read the attached documents and to direct immediate efforts to preventing sequestration - a potentially devastating blow to our Soldiers and the defense industry that supports them.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired