



3 September 2013

The Honorable John Boehner (OH-08)
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (CA-12)
House Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The recent \$85 billion across-the-board spending cuts mandated by sequestration have caused repercussions throughout the Department of Defense. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel says that continued imposition of sequestration cuts will require additional action that will reduce military readiness possibly including further reduction of Army active and Reserve Component end-strength, loss of up to five Air Force tactical aircraft squadrons and sidelining of three Navy Carrier Strike Groups.

Simply put, sequestration is creating a hollow defense force with leaders who must try to plan without funding certainty, an Air Force without sufficient flying hours for its squadrons, a Navy that must cancel ship deployments, and an Army that cannot send its units to combat training centers. Across the Department of Defense, civilian personnel face furlough, unit readiness must be tiered, pilot training is backlogged, facilities maintenance and military schooling is cancelled and battle loss replacement is deferred lowering professional leader development and unit mission readiness.

We understand that the Department of Defense must reduce costs in an era of fiscal constraint, however sequestration with its rigid implementation and lack of responsible oversight does not allow defense leaders the funding certainty or financial flexibility to responsibly structure, fund and maintain today's military forces or to prepare those forces to deter enemies in the future. During the upcoming Continuing Resolution debate, Congress must work together to solve the problem of sequestration and provide budget certainty for the Department of Defense. On behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army, the Association of the United States Navy, and the Air Force Association, we urge you to create a bi-partisan solution to sequestration that will allow our military forces to maintain their ability to successfully defend our nation.

Sincerely,

Gordon R. Sullivan, General, U.S. Army (Ret.)
President & CEO, Association of the U.S. Army

John B. Totushek, VADM, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Executive Director, Association of the U.S. Navy

George K. Muellner, Lt. Gen., U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
Chairman of the Board, Air Force Association