

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2013

General Keith B. Alexander
Commander
United States Cyber Command
Fort George G. Meade
4409 Llewellyn Avenue
Fort George Meade, MD 20755

Dear General Alexander,

We are writing to let you know that we are working on legislation to increase the role of the National Guard in your and the broader civilian cybersecurity efforts.

We appreciate your recent testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee that there is an unmet need to fill several thousand recently validated Cyber positions at US Cyber Command (CYBERCOM), and that "we'll depend on reserve and National Guard just like the rest of our force structure." Given the urgency of the problem, the need is immediate and requires an immediate solution; yet the Services are currently unable to meet the COCOMs requirements.

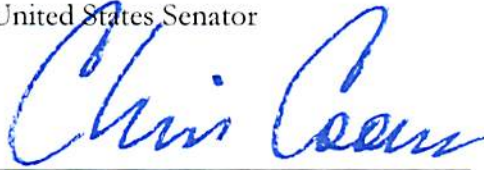
We understand that the National Guard (NG) has several hundred Army and Air Guard members with the required military and civilian skills and the necessary security clearances to fill this immediate need. Such cyber forces inside the National Guard, and additional Guard Members identified over time, could provide the Services trained manpower to fill the unmet COCOM demand. The Guard presents a cost-effective solution, allowing the Department to retain critical training, experience and skill of separating active duty service members, and leverages civilian expertise. Moreover, the ability of the Guard to serve in both Title 10 and 32 status responds to the very risks posed by a threat that does not know geographic or domain boundaries.

We urge you to work with the Service Chiefs and the Secretary of Defense to ensure that funding identified for the cyber mission includes resources to train and maintain cyber Guard units. We look forward to working with you to support your goal of standing up a robust cyber team, and we believe that the Guard should be an important component of that effort.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



Chris Coons
United States Senator



David Vitter
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator