

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

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MEMBER, DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE

MEMBER, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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July 9, 2015

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Gentlemen:

We are strong supporters and have profound admiration for our country's National Guard. Transferring Apache helicopters from the National Guard to the Active Army and reducing Army National Guard end-strength and Full-Time Support could cause irreversible damage to the National Guard. It could also cause serious harm to our national security. The Commission on the Future of the Army reports out next February and Congress must have time to review their findings and respond appropriately.

The National Guard is battle-tested and combat proven—an indispensable, operational force throughout thirteen years of constant conflict. In the true spirit of the Citizen-Soldier, New York Guardsmen were among the first responders at the World Trade Center on 9/11. Since then, the National Guard has filled every request for forces with over 760,000 individuals mobilized for overseas operations.

With more than fifty percent of its soldiers having combat experience, today's Army National Guard is more capable, more experienced, and more rapidly deployable than ever in our nation's history. They are interchangeable with the Active Army and stand strong as our nation's strategic hedge against unforeseen world events.

Congress established the Commission on the Future of the Army to ensure we have all of the information needed to make informed and responsible decisions. We must allow the Commission to report its recommendations without presupposition. Allowing changes to the National Guard prior to the Commission's report defeats the entire purpose of the Commission.

America's security is our top priority. Protecting the capabilities of the National Guard is vitally important to that security. As the FY16 National Defense Authorization and Appropriations bills are conferenced, we ask you to halt the transfer of Apaches from the Army National Guard and stop reductions in Army Guard end-strength and Full-Time Support until FY 17. This will ensure Congress has sufficient time to review all recommendations and to thoughtfully deliberate the issues before making a final decision on matters critical to national Security.

Sincerely,

Key Stanger

Michael E. Caproni

Martina Mc Sully

Hy Cuellar

Sen Cole

Mark Udall

MV

Strom Thurmond

Keith J. Rothfus

Carol Brunner

Chaka Fattah

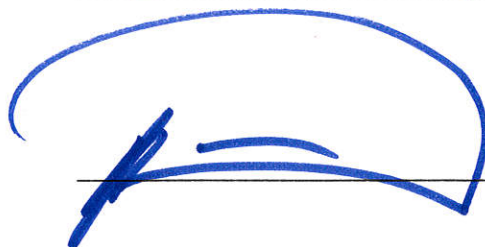
Rob A. Brady

J. J. Lee

Tim Ryan

John ~~st~~

David P. Lee

 TN-04

Ted W. Lee

Joseph R. Pitts

Henny Heck

Robert Huber

Paul Wagon

Glen Grotman

Tom Furr

Tom Marino

Amil B. M. T. e

 LA-05

Jackie Walowski

Did Kouze

Ryn Costello

Carol Meacham

FM Vele

Evan H. Jenkins

K. R. P. L.

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Blake Ferrell

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Beverly Cameron

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W. J. Webb

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Earl Blum

Jeyoung

Just Gittle

Cheri Bustos

Dan P. Joyce

Larry Bucshin IN 8

Kenny Whitcomb

Tom Jones

Don Brishk

Mark DeLeon

David Young

Y. K. Kinspall

John

Paul Blum

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Joe B. Howe

Brad Skford

Alan Lowenthal

Ryan

Joe Barletta

Debbie Dingell

John Moderno

Brenda T. Byrd

Steve Thompson

Erik Paulsen

Bruce Westerman

Joyce Beatty

Ann Marie Foster

Jim Bidenstine

Robert Cold

Bill Posey

Quinn Black

James Lee

Pat Tibbie

Brenda Laurence

Kathy

Regen Williams

W.P. Dwy

DW Bunsary Jr

Bill Huizenga

Liam

John Lally

Ed Platt

Ch

John C. Curry

Frank Hill (AR-2)

Trey Gowdy

Alex X. Murray

PK

Matthew A. Carter

Ze Lynn

Richard M

Bill

Richard

Carl

Paul Hewhouse

Susan Brooks

Dave Locksack

Paul

Ron Kind

Andy Barr

Rodney Jais

Bill Johnson

Michael M. Kowch

Grace S. Neapolitano

Wynne

Ari Ben

Raúl R. Labrador

Billy Long

Kristen Simone

Joe Barton

Pete DeFazio

Pete Olson

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Bobby Lusk

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Roni Lehman

C. W. Dent

John Garamendi

Colleen Haney

By Walden

Tom Vanden Bergh

Jo M. King

Rubin Hernandez

Shirley Jackson

Eric Chu

Sharon R. Patton

Steve King

Mark Sanford

John G. Snow

~~John G. Snow~~

Mike Doyle

Chris F...

Robert ...

Robert ...

Thomas ...

Chris Stewart

Mark ...

~~Mark ...~~

Mike Thompson

Will Hurd

Green ...

Thomas Massie

Mark ...

Bob ...

John Ratcliffe

Candice S. Miller

Tom Rice

Gregg Harper

Mr. [Signature]

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Kurt Schoder

Cynthia P. Summies

Kent Stanks

Tim Walling

Blaine Juelly

Tom Graves

Mike Lotman

[Signature]

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April Lee Ford

Randy Hartz

Lee [Signature]

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Paul [Signature]

Wm. Lucy Clay

James [Signature]

J. Se. 31-13

Adrian [Signature]

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Ernie

Paul Stry

Walter B. Jones

Christine

Bob Goodlatte

Mark Hale

Pete Welch

Alan

Marsha Blackburn

Mr. Stoyan

Bill Shuster

John Cullerson

John Cullerson

Richard Hanna

Tim Murphy

Matt Salmon

Mike Spivey

Al Ray ^{MD}

Sam Johnson

J. Jh

Suzanne Branni

Earl 2 Buddy Cate

Ben R. Linn

Wm. Post

Rob Woodall

Harvey

Steve Whit

Mac Kay

Doug Collins

Eljah E. Cummings

Joe Wilson

Rayburn's

Gene Whit

John Carter

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Michael McCaul	Mario Diaz Balart
Mark Veasy	Tim Ryan
John Yarmuth	Tom Marino
David Roe	David McKinley
Scott DesJarlais	Ralph Abraham
Ted Lieu	Jackie Walorski
Joseph Pitts	David Rouzer
Denny Heck	Ryan Costello
Richard Hudson	Patrick Meehan
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Ted Yoho	Earl Blumenauer
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Pat Tiberi	Brenda Lawrence
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Marsha Blackburn
Bill Shuster
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Sam Johnson

Jim Jordan
Suzanne Bonamici
Earl Buddy Carter
Ben R. Lujan
Mike Bost
Rob Woodall
Don Beyer
Steve Chabot

Mike Kelly
Doug Collins
Elijah Cummings
Joe Wilson
Barry Loudermilk
David Trott
John Carter