



Iowa



Maryland

August 20, 2013

The Honorable Charles T. Hagel  
Secretary  
Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Hagel and Deputy Secretary Carter:

On behalf of the Council of Governors (Council), we write to you in follow up to the Council's meeting on August 4 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Deputy Secretary Carter's letter on August 9. The reaffirmation of your commitment to a productive partnership with the Council is appreciated. For this partnership to be effective, however, we believe there are a number of additional steps that must be taken to uphold the purpose and effectiveness of the Council. We request a meeting with you both before the end of September to discuss how we can best work together.

We are confident that the Council can continue to provide a forum for meaningful dialogue and can facilitate progress on a range of issues affecting the National Guard and state-federal military activities. To do so will require consistent dialogue at the highest levels and adherence to the 2010 Statement of Principles and the February 2013 budget consultative process agreement.

Like you, governors have made tough decisions and we have offered to serve as partners in identifying cost-effective solutions to reduce costs while maintaining capability in tough budget times. Thus, we look forward to discussing with you the following issues that we raised with your staff at the August 4 meeting:

- An outstanding need for a strategic-level dialogue with Department of Defense (DoD) senior leaders at the highest levels on core issues such as National Guard budget and force structure;
- DoD's efforts to finalize and publish a departmental instruction (DoDI 3025.22) pertaining to the role of the National Guard in the homeland prior to discussing it with the Council as previously promised; and

- The opportunity for a strategic partnership with the Council to develop a statement of principles and joint action plan for state-federal collaboration on cybersecurity, replicating the tremendous success building and implementing a framework for the use of Dual Status Commanders during the response to emergencies.

We appreciate the opportunity to address our concerns and to chart a path forward for meeting our national security requirements.

Sincerely,



Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Co-Chair  
Council of Governors



Governor Martin O'Malley  
Co-Chair  
Council of Governors

cc:

The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security  
The Honorable Suzanne Spaulding, Acting Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs  
General Charles Jacoby, Commander, U.S. Northern Command  
General Frank Grass, Chief, National Guard Bureau  
Mr. Todd Rosenblum, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs  
Mr. David Agnew, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director, Intergovernmental Affairs