



Connecticut



Iowa

May 22, 2015

The Honorable Robert Work  
Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Deputy Secretary Work:

Thank you for your response to our March 12 letter regarding proposed cuts to the Army National Guard's (ARNG) personnel, force structure and aircraft. Based on recent budget analysis and as a matter of courtesy, we request you reconsider whether to implement these proposals until after the National Commission on the Future of the Army (Commission) provides its recommendations to Congress.

As you stated in your May 8 letter, it is the Department of Defense's goal to reduce stress on the force to the maximum extent possible while reducing costs. The proposed ARNG end strength reductions of 8,200 personnel, including more than 1,700 full-time staff, would affect an additional 15,000 positions across all states because of the need to shift positions, retrain staff and modify facilities to accommodate changes in force structure. Fully implementing such changes could take three to five years, creating instability and uncertainty for states and undermining the ARNG's ability to support emergency response missions.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that these cuts would save \$170 million in FY 2016. Unfortunately, CBO's estimate does not take into account implementation costs, which the National Guard Bureau estimates at \$179 million. In other words, the end strength reductions cost more to implement than they would save. If the costs to transfer all ARNG Apaches to the active Army are included, this figure and the number of positions affected would be even higher.

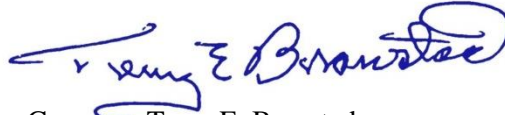
Given these cost considerations and the amount of turbulence the proposals would create in our states for little gain, we urge you to maintain the ARNG's current personnel, force structure and aircraft until the Commission completes its work and Congress has the opportunity to act. Governors remain open to working with you and the Commission to craft solutions to reduce costs while maintaining military capability, but making long-term irreversible changes to the ARNG now before the Commission finishes its work simply does not make sense.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to dialog. We look forward to discussing these issues during our May 26 call.

Sincerely,



Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
Co-Chair  
Connecticut



Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Co-Chair  
Iowa

cc: The Honorable Ash Carter, Secretary of Defense  
The Honorable John McHugh, Secretary of the Army  
The Honorable Eric Rosenbach, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security Affairs  
General Ray Odierno, Chief of Staff of the Army  
General Frank Grass, Chief, National Guard Bureau