



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

25 January 2012

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Smith,

We are writing to convey our support for the reforms in military compensation programs included in the President's fiscal year 2013 budget. The proposals value the unique demands of military service as well as our duty to be good stewards of the Nation's resources. They reflect our counsel and honor our commitment to America's all-volunteer force and families.

The President's budget identifies responsible reductions in defense spending. It acknowledges the reality that military pay, allowances, and health care consume roughly one third of the defense budget. These costs cannot be ignored in our comprehensive effort to achieve savings. In our judgment, the budget achieves the appropriate balance in compensation, force structure, and modernization. It sustains the recruitment, retention, and readiness of the talented personnel needed to defend our nation.

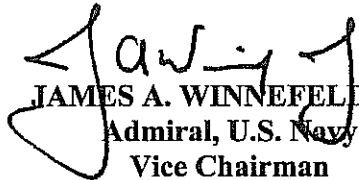
Our compensation reforms are sensible. Modest pay raises continue—no reductions, no freezes. TRICARE care enrollment and deductibles fees increase for retirees, but they are comparatively moderate and tiered based on retirement income. Pharmacy co-pays trend toward market rates and encourage the use of generic drugs and mail-order delivery. In all cases, costs remain substantially less than those in the private sector.

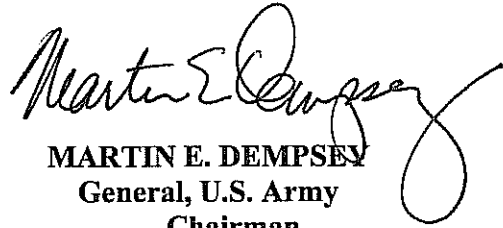
To be clear, these changes do not alter the health care currently provided to our active duty personnel and their families. Those who have been medically retired as a result of their service, particularly our Wounded Warriors, are also exempted. So are our Gold Star Families. It is the right thing to do for those who have given so much.


Finally, we endorse creating a commission to recommend reforms in retired pay. Any changes should grandfather benefits for those currently serving. We cannot break faith.

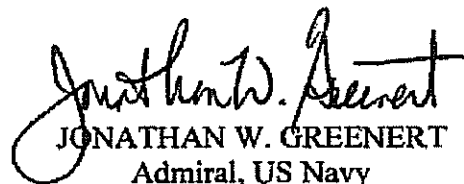
We understand that any changes to military compensation programs create concern among our troops, their families, retirees, and the public. Our approach is careful and responsible. We ask that you support all of the proposals as submitted in the President's fiscal year 2013 budget.


Sincerely,



JAMES A. WINNEFELD, JR.
Admiral, U.S. Navy
Vice Chairman

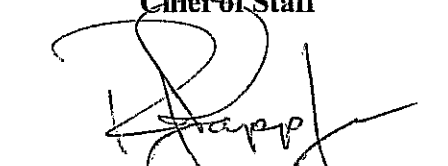

MARTIN E. DEMPSEY
General, U.S. Army
Chairman

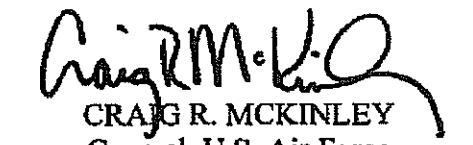

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
General, U.S. Army
Chief of Staff

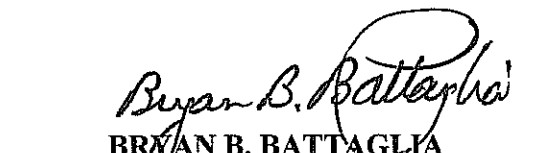

JONATHAN W. GREENERT
Admiral, US Navy
Chief of Naval Operations



NORTON A. SCHWARTZ
General, U.S. Air Force
Chief of Staff



JAMES F. AMOS
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



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Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commandant of the Coast Guard


CRAIG R. MCKINLEY
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Chief of the National Guard Bureau


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Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman


RAYMOND F. CHANDLER
Sergeant Major of the Army


RICK D. WEST
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JAMES A. ROY
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force



MICHEAL P. BARRETT
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps



MICHAEL P. LEAVITT
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast
Guard



DENISE M. JELINSKI-HALL
Chief Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force
Senior Enlisted Leader
National Guard Bureau