



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

31 January 2002

The Honorable Bob Stump
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman:

During my confirmation hearings last year, I committed to developing a comprehensive depot maintenance strategy for the Air Force. I now want to provide you a progress report on our efforts to develop a comprehensive depot level maintenance and repair strategy, which includes a strategic plan for the Air Force's three organic depot maintenance operations. I also recognize that language in the FY2002 Conference Committee report for the National Defense Authorization Act directs me to submit the strategy to the Congress not later than 31 January 2002.

I have asked the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Logistics, Nelson F. Gibbs, to take the lead for the Air Force in developing our depot level maintenance and repair strategy. Although still in draft, the strategy reflects the following:

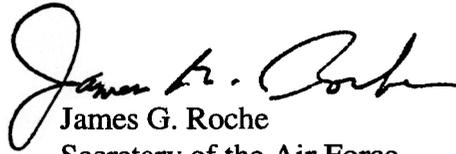
- The requirement for the Air Force to maintain a ready and controlled source of organic technical competence to ensure an effective response to national defense contingencies and emergency requirements
- A commitment to creating "world class" maintenance, repair, and overhaul operations in the Air Logistics Centers through infrastructure recapitalization, workforce improvements, and corporate Air Force process improvements
- Increased commercial partnering to leverage the core competencies of both the public and private industrial and technology sectors

Before we can complete the strategic plan, we must ensure that sufficient resources required to implement the plan are integrated into our Program Objective Memorandum. We will accomplish this task as part of the Fiscal Year 2004-2009 Program Objective Memorandum development.

Assistant Secretary Gibbs has met with your staff to familiarize them with additional details of our strategy. He is also available to meet with you and other members to discuss the strategy on request.

Again, the Air Force is fully committed to managing a world class organic depot maintenance capability for our warfighters. After visiting our three Air Logistics Centers, I am even more confident that creating superior organic maintenance, repair, and overhaul operations is well within our reach. I look forward to working with you and your staff in making that goal a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James G. Roche". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force