



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8113

May 1, 2012

The Honorable XXXX
United States Senate/House of Representatives
Washington DC 20510/20515

Dear Senator/Representative XXXXX:

The Military Coalition, a consortium of military and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million members plus their families and survivors, urges you to ensure Congress acts to protect the Defense Department and the Nation from the catastrophic impact that sequestration would have on the defense budget and future national security.

Absent alternative congressional action, the January 2013 sequestration required by the Budget Control Act would force an additional \$60 billion in automatic cuts to the defense budget for FY2013, over and above the \$45 billion already taken – a cumulative 18% cut in one year, plus nearly a half-trillion dollars in additional cuts over the next nine years.

The defense budget consumes only 17% of budget but will be hit with 50% of the cuts.

Cuts of such magnitude would devastate the all-volunteer force that already has been required to bear 100% of the nation's burden of wartime sacrifice for the last decade.

Sequestration would require massive force reductions of more than 200,000, leaving the smallest ground forces since 1940 and a remaining force more vulnerable to emerging threats. It likely would entail breaking compensation, health care, and other support commitments to generations of servicemembers, families, and survivors who already have spent decades sacrificing their personal interests in service to their country.

And it would do all this while our Nation is still at war and while our economy is experiencing unemployment levels near the highest in recent memory.

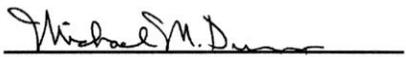
It is difficult to see how the services could continue to recruit and retain a high-quality career force after imposing such grossly disproportional budgetary penalties on servicemembers and families.

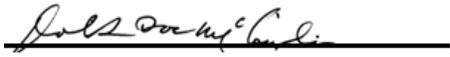
Avoiding the terrible effects of sequestration is not a political issue. It is fundamental to sustaining the Nation's ability to defend itself.

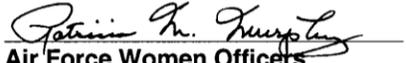
The Military Coalition urges you and every member of Congress to seek an immediate, bipartisan solution to avoid this unconscionable prospect.

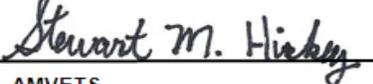
Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures attached)


Air Force Association

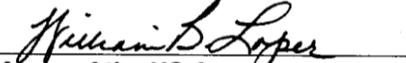

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)


Air Force Women Officers
Associated

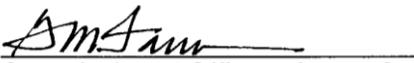

AMVETS


Army Aviation Assn. of America

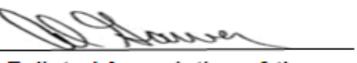

Assn. of Military Surgeons
of the United States

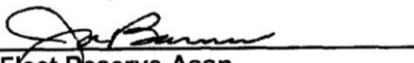

Assn. of the US Army


Association of the United States Navy


Commissioned Officers Assn. of
the US Public Health Service. Inc

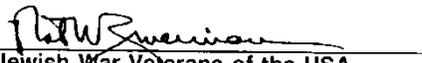

CWOA, US Coast Guard

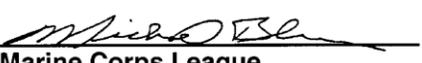

Enlisted Association of the
National Guard of the US


Fleet Reserve Assn.


Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.


Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans
of America


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Marine Corps League

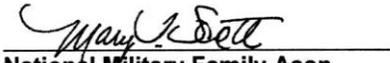

Marine Corps Reserve Association


Military Officers Assn. of America


Military Order of the Purple Heart


National Association for
Uniformed Services


National Guard Assn. of the US


National Military Family Assn.

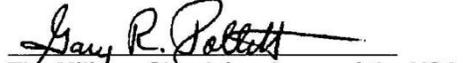

Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.


Non Commissioned Officers Assn.
of the United States of America


Reserve Enlisted Assn. of the US


Reserve Officers Assn


Society of Medical Consultants
to the Armed Forces


The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA


The Retired Enlisted Assn.


US Army Warrant Officers Assn.


Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US