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## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

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ROBERT L. SIMMONS, II, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 10, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

The House Armed Services Committee has begun its consideration of the fiscal year (2012 FY12) President's budget request for the Department of Defense (DOD). In accordance with the Congressional Budget Act and the Rules of the House, the Committee will submit its views regarding the national defense budget for FY12 to the Chairman of the Budget Committee. As HASC Republicans, we would also like to bring to your attention the investment shortfalls we have identified in President Obama's budget request and seek your support for an increase of \$7 billion to the current defense budget request. We believe this increase is necessary to support critical shortfalls and underestimated economic assumptions within the President's request.

The President's FY12 budget requests \$578.1 billion in discretionary budget authority for national defense. Of this total, \$553.0 billion is for the Department of Defense (DOD), \$18.1 billion is for the Department of Energy's defense activities, and \$7.0 billion is for other defense-related activities. The President's budget also includes \$6.8 billion in mandatory budget authority.

The DOD's \$553.0 billion base budget is actually a decrease of 0.7 percent from President Obama's request for FY11. This is not simply a one year cut. The President's request for the five-year future years defense program (FYDP), the period from FY12 through FY16, reflects a \$78 billion top-line reduction when compared to last year's FYDP. These reductions are in addition to inherent funding shortfalls in the FY12 through FY16 period, identified by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in its document *Long-Term Implications of the 2011 Future Years Defense Program*.

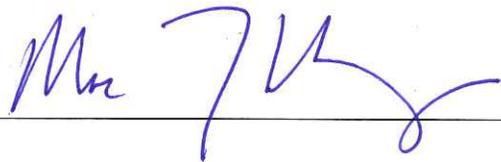
Within this context, we must also consider the consequences of the FY11 appropriations, which the Democratic-controlled Congress failed to pass. Now their unfinished business is left to us to conclude. We strongly believe that this House must not force the Department of Defense to operate under a year-long continuing resolution. As Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has said, "A yearlong continuing resolution... for the Department of Defense, is the worst of all possible worlds." We thank you for your hard work to ensure this will not happen. Nevertheless, a significant cut to the FY11 defense appropriation, such as the \$16 billion reduction adopted in H.R.1, is also problematic, especially while we continue to fight two wars. Even President Obama stated in his February 15, 2011 Statement of Administration Policy regarding H.R. 1, "The bill proposes cuts that... would reduce funding for the Department of Defense to a level that would leave the Department without the resources and flexibility needed to meet vital military requirements."

Republicans must be ever mindful that the strength of our national defense is directly related to the strength of the American economy. But we must also remember that we are the party of Reagan. We should not jeopardize the security of the nation by accepting across-the-board cuts to national defense without regard to the inherent strategic risks. Members of the Armed Services Committee remain committed to ensuring the United States military has the capabilities required to preserve our national security and that DOD is operated with fiscal discipline in order to maximize the return on taxpayers' investments.

We appreciate your willingness to consider this Committee's assessment that given the spectrum of threats to our national security, the diverse missions performed by our military, and the funding required for reset from current contingency operations, the budget request is below the minimum level necessary to support our national security requirements. For more detail regarding the Committee's request, please refer to the Committee's letter to Chairman Ryan, Enclosure A. We look forward to working together to ensure a strong national defense.

Sincerely,

  
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\_\_\_\_\_ PA-19

cc: The Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Whip  
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Chairman, House Budget Committee  
The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable C.W. Bill Young, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee -  
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