



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1000



MAY 3 2002

Honorable Bob Stump
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to inform you of an important initiative to address security vulnerabilities at the headquarters of the Department of Defense and its associated facilities. The events of September 11, 2001, identified the need for an improved force protection structure and response capability for the Pentagon Reservation and at facilities in the National Capital Region managed or monitored by the DoD. To date, we have met this challenge through a variety of available arrangements and resources (including the current Defense Protective Service (DPS) and its augmentation by the mobilization of Military Police detachments to the area).

As a result of an internal review, I have determined that the existing structure is not an optimal solution for opposing subsequent acts of terrorism and other emergencies. What is needed is a single DoD organizational entity that can provide a focused, streamlined and multi-disciplined force to meet our heightened force protection, law enforcement, and anti-terrorism responsibilities. To accomplish this, the Department is establishing the Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA). The PFPA will be a new Defense Agency into which the existing resources of the DPS will be transferred, enhanced, and integrated with other assets in order to create a robust capability to satisfy immediate and continuing requirements in these areas.

In accordance with section 8052(b) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2002, I hereby waive the limitations of section 8052(a) because I have determined, and hereby certify, that granting the waiver will reduce the overall personnel requirements of the Department for this vital mission. These savings are in addition to those intrinsic benefits that will accrue from improving our ability to protect DoD personnel, facilities, and critical infrastructure.

Copies of this letter are also being provided to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the Senate and House Appropriations Defense Subcommittees.

Sincerely,

cc:

Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Minority Member