



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

OCT - 6 2017

The Honorable William M. "Mac" Thornberry
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to section 2815 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 (Public Law 114-92), the enclosed report contains a force structure plan for each Military Service informed by the Department's assessment of probable threats to national security, as well as the end-strength levels and major military force units authorized for FY 2012. The report also includes a world-wide installations inventory and a description of the infrastructure necessary to support the FY 2012 force structure.

The report uses historic ratios of forces and infrastructure to identify types of facilities that may have excess capacity for FY 2012 force levels. While this categorical analysis indicates the Department maintains approximately 19 percent excess capacity, I want to incorporate an updated national defense strategy into a more detailed installation by installation capacity analysis that can only occur within a congressionally authorized BRAC round. If Congress were to enact the Department's legislative proposal authorizing a 2021 BRAC round, the process would proceed only if I certify that a BRAC round is needed and that it will achieve savings for each of the Military Departments.

An updated defense strategy must be supported by an updated basing strategy. Since the last BRAC round we have developed new methods of warfare, new technologies, and expanded needs for Warfighter training that require us to assess the military value and effectiveness of our domestic military infrastructure. In addition, every unnecessary facility we maintain requires us to cut capabilities elsewhere. I must be able to eliminate excess infrastructure in order to shift resources to readiness and modernization.

The BRAC process provides opportunities for military forces to be more effective, for capabilities to be enhanced, and for savings to be applied to higher priorities. It is the only fair, objective, and proven process to evaluate bases using military value as the primary consideration. Now is the time to authorize another round. An identical letter has been sent to the other congressional defense committees.

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member

