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United States Senate

October 21, 2008

The Honorable Douglas A. Brooks
Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

Dear Under Secretary Brooks:

The Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 110-417) and FY09 Department of Defense Appropriations Act (P.L. 110-329), as signed into law by the President, include resources for the "Crypto-Linguist/Intelligence Initiative," to be executed by the Nebraska Air National Guard at Offutt Air Force Base (Offutt AFB). This initiative is on the Air Force's Total Force Integration list.

The Authorized End Strength for Air National Guard members on active duty in support of the Air National Guard (10 U.S.C. § 12001) was increased from the President's Budget Request of 106,700 to 106,756. These additional 56 authorizations were added for the sole purpose of supporting the "Crypto-Linguist/Intelligence Initiative" at Offutt AFB.

Likewise, the Authorized End Strength for Air National Guard personnel on active duty in support of the Air National Guard (10 U.S.C. § 12011) was increased from the President's Budget Request of 14,337 to 14,360. These additional 23 authorizations were added for the sole purpose of supporting the "Crypto-Linguist/Intelligence Initiative" at Offutt AFB.

The funds appropriated to specifically support these end strength increases and other operating costs associated with this initiative include \$640,000 in Operations and Maintenance, Air National Guard (Appropriation 3840) and \$2,720,000 in National Guard Personnel, Air Force (Appropriation 3850). These additional funds provided above the President's Budget Request were added for the sole purpose of supporting the "Crypto-Linguist/Intelligence Initiative" at Offutt AFB. This level of funding represents 80 percent of the full requirement, indicating the belief of Congress that this additional end strength cannot be executed immediately in FY09.

My understanding of the process for executing these additional resources provided by Congress is that your office will make the determination as to the status of this action in future fiscal years. Accordingly, I am writing to let you know it was my intent, as well as the intent of Congress, that in providing these additional resources to the U.S Air Force and Air National Guard, the end strength and funding increases were to be made permanent and to be fully funded at 100 percent beyond FY09.

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Thank you for considering the intent of Congress as you issue a Program Budget Decision regarding the position of the U.S. Department of Defense in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you regarding the status of that decision. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Andrew Vanlandingham of my staff if you or any member of your staff has questions or needs additional information in order to reach your decision.

Sincerely,



E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:arv