

## 151 Retired Three and Four-Star Generals and Admirals Oppose Cuts to the International Affairs Budget

February 11, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write as retired three- and four-star flag and general officers from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces to reinforce our strong conviction that elevating and strengthening diplomacy and development alongside defense is critical to keeping America safe.

As you and your colleagues look ahead to the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2019, the world has not grown any safer since many of us wrote a similar letter to you last year. The number of people displaced by conflict and instability has grown in Yemen, Somalia, Myanmar and Venezuela, among many other places, creating even greater security challenges for our nation and our allies. Today, nearly 30 million people risk starvation in four countries where we also face the growing threat of violent extremism. And while we have seen military progress against ISIS, the question that looms is whether we are prepared to protect those battlefield gains and prevent bad actors from stepping into the void.

As Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has said, “America’s got two fundamental powers, the power of intimidation and the power of inspiration.” Today’s crises do not have military solutions alone, yet America’s essential civilian national security agencies – the State Department, USAID, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Peace Corps and other development agencies – faced a significant cut last year. Many senior leadership positions remain unfilled, undercutting America’s global influence. We call on you to ensure our nation also has the civilian resources necessary to protect our national security, compete against our adversaries, and create opportunities around the world.

We reinforce that strategic investments in diplomacy and development – like all of U.S. investments – must be effective and accountable. Significant reforms inspired by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation have made U.S. foreign assistance even more results-oriented, but deep budget cuts would jeopardize this important progress in recent years.

Thank you for the leadership you have shown, and we urge you again to ensure a responsible commitment of resources for the International Affairs Budget that keeps pace with the growing threats we face.

We must not undercut our nation's ability to lead around the world in such turbulent times.

Sincerely,

Admiral Thad W. Allen, USCG (Ret.)  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard ('06-'10)

Vice Admiral Michael L. Bowman, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet ('98-'00)

Admiral Frank L. Bowman, USN (Ret.)  
Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion ('96-'04)

Admiral Gregory G. Johnson, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe  
Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe ('01-'04)

Admiral Jerome L. Johnson, USN (Ret.)  
Vice Chief of Naval Operations ('90-'92)

General Keith B. Alexander, USA (Ret.)  
Director, National Security Agency ('05-'14)  
Commander, U.S. Cyber Command ('10-'14)

Lt. General Edward G. Anderson III, USA (Ret.)  
Vice Commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command  
Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command ('02-'04)

Lt. General Thomas L. Baptiste, USAF (Ret.)  
Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee ('04-'07)

Lt. General Michael D. Barbero, USA (Ret.)  
Director, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization ('11-'13)

Lt. General Jared L. Bates, USA (Ret.)  
Inspector General, U.S. Army ('95-'97)

Lt. General John M. (Mick) Bednarek, USA (Ret.)  
Chief, Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq ('13-'15)

Lt. General Ronald R. Blanck, USA (Ret.)  
Surgeon General of the United States Army ('96-'00)

Lt. General Harold Blot, USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation ('94-'96)

Lt. General H. Steven Blum, USA (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command  
Vice Commander, U.S. Element, U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command ('09-'10)

Lt. General Steven W. Boutelle, USA (Ret.)  
Chief Information Officer and G6, United States Army ('03-'07)

General Charles G. Boyd, USAF (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command ('92-'95)

General Bryan Doug Brown, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command ('03-'07)

General Arthur E. Brown, Jr., USA (Ret.)  
Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army ('87-'89)

Lt. General John H. Campbell, USAF (Ret.)  
Associate Director of Central Intelligence for Military Support, Central Intelligence Agency ('00-'03)

General Bruce Carlson, USAF (Ret.)  
Director, National Reconnaissance Office ('09-'12)

General George W. Casey, Jr., USA (Ret.)  
Chief of Staff of the United States Army ('07-'11)

Lt. General John G. Castellaw, USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources ('07-'08)

Lt. General Dennis D. Cavin, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Army Accessions Command ('02-'04)

General Peter W. Chiarelli, USA (Ret.)  
Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army ('08-'12)

Lt. General Daniel W. Christman, USA (Ret.)  
Superintendent, United States Military Academy ('96-'01)

Lt. General George R. Christmas, USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Reserve Affairs ('94-'96)

General Wesley K. Clark, USA (Ret.)  
Supreme Allied Commander, Europe ('97-'00)

Admiral Vern Clark, USN (Ret.)  
Chief of Naval Operations ('00-'05)

Lt. General Charles T. Cleveland, USA (Ret.)  
Commanding General, U.S. Army Special Operations Command ('12-'15)

General Richard A. "Dick" Cody, USA (Ret.)  
Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army ('04-'08)

General James T. Conway, USMC (Ret.)  
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('06-'10)

General Donald G. Cook, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, Air Education and Training Command, ('01-'05)

General John D.W. Corley, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, Air Combat Command ('07-'09)

General Bantz J. Craddock, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. European Command  
NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe ('06-'09)

Vice Admiral Lewis W. Crenshaw, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Resources, Requirements, and Assessments ('04-'07)

Lt. General John "Mark" M. Curran, USA (Ret.)  
Deputy Commanding General Futures, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command ('03-'07)

Lt. General Robert R. Dierker, USAF (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Command ('02-'04)

Admiral Kirkland H. Donald, USN (Ret.)  
Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion ('04-'12)

Lt. General James M. Dubik, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, Multi National Security Transition Command and NATO Training Mission-Iraq ('07-'08)

Lt. General Kenneth E. Eickmann, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, Aeronautical Systems Center, U.S. Air Force ('96-'98)

Admiral James O. Ellis, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Strategic Command ('02-'04)

Vice Admiral Malcolm I. Fages, USN (Ret.)  
Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee ('01-'04)

Admiral William J. Fallon, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Central Command ('07-'08)

Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Pacific Command ('02-'05)

Admiral Mark P. Fitzgerald, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe ('07-'10) and U.S. Naval Forces Africa ('09-'10)

General Ronald R. Fogleman, USAF (Ret.)  
Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force ('94-'97)

General Douglas M. Fraser, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Southern Command ('09-'12)

Lt. General Benjamin C. Freakley, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Army Accessions Command ('07-'12)

General Carlton W. Fulford, Jr., USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander in Chief, United States European Command ('00-'02)

Lt. General Robert G. Gard, Jr., USA (Ret.)  
President, National Defense University, ('77-'81)

Lt. General William B. Garrett III, USA (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command ('14-'16)

Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff ('05-'07)

Lt. General Jerome Granrud, USA (Ret.)  
Commanding General, U.S. Army Japan/IX Corps ('92-'94)

Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN (Ret.)  
Chief of Naval Operations ('11-'15)

Lt. General Arthur J. Gregg, USA (Ret.)  
Army Deputy Chief of Staff ('79-'81)

Lt. General Wallace C. Gregson, USMC (Ret.)  
Commanding General, Marine Corps Forces Pacific & Marine Corps Forces Central Command ('03-'05)

Vice Admiral Lee F. Gunn, USN (Ret.)  
Inspector General, U.S. Navy ('97-'00)

General Michael W. Hagee, USMC (Ret.)  
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('03-'06)

Lt. General Franklin L. Hagenbeck, USA (Ret.)  
Superintendent, United States Military Academy ('06-'10)

Lt. General Michael A. Hamel, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center ('05-'08)

General John W. Handy, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Transportation Command  
Commander, Air Mobility Command ('01-'05)

General Richard E. Hawley, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, Air Combat Command ('96-'99)

General Michael V. Hayden, USAF (Ret.)  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency ('06-'09)

Lt. General Frank G. Helmick, USA (Ret.)  
Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps ('09-'12)

Lt. General Rhett A. Hernandez, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Army Cyber Command ('10-'13)

Lt. General Mark P. Hertling, USA (Ret.)  
Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe ('11-'12)

General Paul V. Hester, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, Pacific Air Forces,  
Air Component Commander for the U.S. Pacific Command Commander ('04-'07)

General James T. Hill, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Southern Command ('02-'04)

Admiral James R. Hogg, USN (Ret.)  
U.S. Military Representative, NATO Military Committee ('88-'91)

Lt. General Walter S. Hogle Jr., USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, 15th Air Force ('00-'01)

Lt. General Russel Honoré, USA (Ret.)  
Commanding General, U.S. First Army ('04-'08)

Lt. General Patrick M. Hughes, USA (Ret.)  
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency ('96-'99)

Lt. General Steven A. Hummer, USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander for Military Operations, U.S. Africa Command ('13-'15)

Lt. General David H. Huntoon, Jr., USA (Ret.)  
Superintendent, United States Military Academy ('10-'13)

Lt. General Kenneth W. Hunzeker, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Army V Corps ('07-'09)

Lt. General William E. Ingram, Jr., USA (Ret.)  
Director, U.S. Army National Guard ('11-'14)

Lt. General Ronald W. Iverson, USAF (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander, US Forces Korea ('94-'97)

General James L. Jamerson, USAF (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command ('95-'98)

Lt. General Arlen D. Jameson, USAF (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Strategic Command ('93-'96)

General John P. Jumper, USAF (Ret.)  
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force ('01-'05)

Lt. General Francis H. Kearney III, USA (Ret.)  
Deputy Director for Strategic Operational Planning, National Counter-Terrorism Center ('10-'12)

Admiral Timothy J. Keating, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Pacific Command ('07-'09)

Lt. General P. K. "Ken" Keen, USA (Ret.)  
Chief, Office of the U.S. Defense Representative to Pakistan ('11-'13)

Lt. General Richard L. Kelly, USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics ('02-'05)

Lt. General Claudia J. Kennedy, USA (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Army Intelligence ('97-'00)

General Paul J. Kern, USA (Ret.)  
Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command ('01-'04)

General William F. Kernan, USA (Ret.)  
Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic  
Commander in Chief, U.S. Joint Forces Command ('00-'02)

Lt. General Donald L. Kerrick, USA (Ret.)  
Deputy National Security Advisor to The President of the United States ('00-'01)

General Ronald E. Keys, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, Air Combat Command ('05-'07)

Lt. General Timothy A. Kinnan, USAF (Ret.)  
U.S. Military Representative, NATO Military Committee ('01-'04)

Lt. General Bruce B. Knutson, USMC (Ret.)  
Commanding General, Marine Corp Combat Command ('00-'01)

Vice Admiral Albert H. Konetzni, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet ('01-'04)

General Charles Chandler Krulak, USMC (Ret.)  
Commandant of the Marine Corps ('95-'99)

Lt. General William J. Lennox, Jr., USA (Ret.)  
Superintendent, United States Military Academy ('01-'06)

Vice Admiral Stephen F. Loftus, USN (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Logistics ('90-'94)

General Lance W. Lord, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Air Force Space Command ('02-'06)

Admiral James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.)  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard ('98-'02)

Lt. General Douglas E. Lute, USA (Ret.)  
Special Assistant to the President  
Senior Coordinator for Afghanistan and Pakistan, National Security Council, The White House ('09-'13)

General Robert Magnus, USMC (Ret.)  
Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('05-'08)

Vice Admiral Joseph Maguire, USN (Ret.)  
Deputy Director for Strategic Operational Planning, National Counterterrorism Center ('07-'10)

Lt. General Raymond V. Mason, USA (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, U.S. Army ('11-'14)

Admiral Henry H. Mauz, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet ('92-'94)

Lt. General Dennis McCarthy, USMC (Ret.)  
Commander, Marine Forces Reserve ('01-'05)

Vice Admiral Justin D. McCarthy, SC, USN (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet Readiness, and Logistics ('04-'07)

General Stanley A. McChrystal, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan ('09-'10)

Lt. General Frederick McCorkle, USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Commandant for Aviation, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps ('98-'01)

General David D. McKiernan, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan ('08-'09)

General Dan K. McNeill, USA, (Ret.)  
Commander, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan ('07-'08)

Lt. General Paul T. Mikolashek, USA (Ret.)  
Inspector General, U.S. Army  
Commanding General, Third U.S. Army ('00-'02)

Vice Admiral Joseph S. Mobley, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet ('98-'01)

General Thomas R. Morgan, USMC (Ret.)  
Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps ('86-'88)

General Thomas R. Morgan, USMC (Ret.)  
Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps ('86-'88)

Vice Admiral John G. Morgan, Jr. USN (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information, Plans, and Strategy ('04-'08)

Admiral Robert J. Natter, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, Fleet Forces Command  
Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet ('00-'03)

Lt. General Richard Y. Newton III, USAF (Ret.)  
Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Director, Air Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force ('10-'12)



General William L. Nyland, USMC (Ret.)  
Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('02-'05)

General Raymond T. Odierno, USA (Ret.)  
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army ('11-'15)

Admiral Eric T. Olson, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Special Operation Command ('07-'11)

Lt. General H. P. "Pete" Osman, USMC (Ret.)  
Commanding General II MEF ('02-'04)

Lt. General Jeffrey W. Oster, USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer, Coalition Provisional Authority, Iraq (2004)  
Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, Headquarters Marine Corps (1998)

Admiral William A. Owens, USN (Ret.)  
Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff ('94-'96)

Vice Admiral Frank C. Pandolfe, USN (Ret.)  
Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff ('15-'17)

Lt. General Frank A. Panter, Jr., USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics ('09-'12)

Lt. General Garry L. Parks, USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs ('01-'04)

General David H. Petraeus, USA (Ret.)  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency ('11-'12)  
Commander, Coalition Forces in Afghanistan ('10-'11) and Iraq ('07-'08)

Vice Admiral Carol M. Pottenger, USN (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability Development, NATO Allied Command Transformation ('10-'13)

Admiral Joseph W. Prueher, USN (Ret.)  
Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command ('96-'99)

Lt. General Harry D. Raduege, Jr., USAF (Ret.)  
Director, Defense Information Systems Agency  
Commander, Joint Task Force for Global Network Operations  
Deputy Commander, Global Network Operations and Defense, U.S. Strategic Command Joint Forces  
Headquarters, Information Operations ('00-'05)

Vice Admiral Norman W. Ray, USN (Ret.)  
Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee ('92-'95)

Lt. General John F. Regni, USAF (Ret.)  
Superintendent, United States Air Force Academy ('05-'09)

General Victor "Gene" E. Renuart, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command ('07-'10)

General Robert W. RisCassi, USA (Ret.)  
Commander in Chief, United Nations Command  
Commander in Chief, ROK/U.S. Combined Forces Command ('90-'93)

Lt. General Norman R. Seip, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, 12th Air Force/Air Forces Southern ('06-'09)

General Henry H. Shelton, USA (Ret.)  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff ('97-'01)

Admiral William D. Smith, USN (Ret.)  
U.S. Military Representative, NATO Military Committee ('91-'93)

Admiral Leighton W. Smith, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe  
Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe ('94-'96)

Lt. General James N. Soligan, USAF (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Transformation, Allied Command Transformation ('06-'10)

Admiral James G. Stavridis, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. European Command and NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe ('09-'13)

Lt. General Martin R. Steele, USMC (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Policies and Operations, U.S. Marine Corps ('97-'99)

Vice Admiral Edward M. Straw, USN (Ret.)  
Director, Defense Logistics Agency ('92-'96)

Vice Admiral William D. Sullivan, USN (Ret.)  
U.S. Military Representative to NATO Military Committee ('06-'09)

Admiral Henry G. Ulrich, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe  
Commander, Joint Forces Command Naples ('05-'08)

General Charles F. Wald, USAF (Ret.)  
Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command ('02-'06)

General William S. Wallace, USA (Ret.)  
Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command ('05-'08)

Lt. General William E. "Kip" Ward, USA (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Africa Command ('07-'11)

Lt. General Joseph H. Wehrle Jr., USAF (Ret.)  
Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force ('02-'03)

Lt. General William Welser III, USAF (Ret.)  
Commander, 18th Air Force, Scott Air Force Base ('03-'05)

General Charles E. Wilhelm, USMC (Ret.)  
Commander, U.S. Southern Command ('97-'00)

General Michael J. Williams, USMC (Ret.)  
Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('00-'02)

General Johnnie E. Wilson, USA (Ret.)  
Commanding General, U.S. Army Material Command ('96-'99)

General Anthony C. Zinni, USMC (Ret.)  
Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command ('97-'00)