



Open Letter to Members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction and Appropriations Leaders

September 7, 2011

As a member of the historic Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, our nation looks to you for leadership at this critical juncture. We know meeting the extraordinary responsibility of putting our country back on sound fiscal ground while also protecting our most critical priorities will be no easy task.

We represent more than 100 retired 3 and 4-star flag and general officers who recognize the gravity of America's fiscal challenges and agree that all programs must contribute their fair share to reducing our debt. Yet, given our decades of experience in protecting our national security, we are very concerned the International Affairs Budget could be forced to shoulder even more disproportionately deep cuts that could devastate our development and diplomatic programs and put our national security at risk.

As we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, this is an important moment for a national conversation on how best to keep our families safe and to reflect on the powerful impact development and diplomacy programs have had on our national security since then. As a result of the dramatic reductions to the International Affairs Budget in FY11 and proposed for FY12 – in some cases more than 30% below current levels – many of the hard-fought gains we have worked to achieve since 9/11 may be reversed.

In today's ever-complex and interconnected world, we must use all the tools available to achieve our national security objectives, including a strong State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, and other civilian-led agencies. At only 1.4% of the federal budget, further deep and disproportionate cuts to the International Affairs Budget threaten U.S. global engagement. America cannot retreat from today's world, which is why military leaders from General Petraeus to Admiral Mullen have made clear that, in an era of global threats, U.S. national security requires strong civilian partners working alongside the military.

We urge you to support a strong and effective International Affairs Budget and oppose deep and disproportionate cuts to these programs. Support for U.S. global engagement is one area where military leaders and members of both parties can find common ground and come together to ensure a better, safer world and a more prosperous future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Loy".

Admiral James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.)
Co-Chair, National Security Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. W. Hagee".

General Michael W. Hagee, USMC (Ret.)
Co-Chair, National Security Advisory Council

cc: Senator Daniel Inouye, Chairman, Appropriations Committee
Senator Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman, State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee
Senator Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member, State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee
Representative Hal Rogers, Chairman, Appropriations Committee
Representative Norm Dicks, Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
Representative Kay Granger, Chairwoman, State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee
Representative Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Admiral Charles S. Abbot, USN (Ret.)**
Deputy Commander in Chief,
U.S. European Command ('98-'00)
- Admiral Thad W. Allen, USCG (Ret.)**
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard ('06-'10)
- Vice Admiral Albert J. Baciocco, Jr., USN (Ret.)**
Director of Research, Development & Acquisition,
Department of Navy ('83-'87)
- Lt. General Thomas L. Baptiste, USAF (Ret.)**
Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee ('04-'07)
- Lt. General Paul Blackwell, USA (Ret.)**
Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans ('94-'96)
- Admiral Frank L. Bowman, USN (Ret.)**
Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion ('96-'04)
- 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)
- Lt. General Daniel W. Christman, USA (Ret.)**
Superintendent, United States Military Academy ('96-'01)
- Admiral Vernon E. Clark, USN (Ret.)**
Chief of Naval Operations ('00-'05)
- General Wesley K. Clark, USA (Ret.)**
Supreme Allied Commander, Europe ('97-'00)
- Admiral Archie R. Clemins, USN (Ret.)**
Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet ('96-'99)
- General Richard A. "Dick" Cody, USA (Ret.)**
Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army ('04-'08)
- Lt. General John B. Conaway, USAF (Ret.)**
Chief, National Guard Bureau ('90-'93)
- General Donald G. Cook, USAF (Ret.)**
Commander, Air Education and Training Command, ('01-'05)
- General Bantz J. Craddock, USA (Ret.)**
Commander, U.S. European Command and
NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe ('06-'09)
- Lt. General John "Mark" M. Curran, USA (Ret.)**
Director Army Capabilities and Integration Center/Deputy Commanding General
Futures, Army Training and Doctrine Command ('03-'07)
- General Terrence R. Dake, USMC (Ret.)**
Assistant Commandant, US Marine Corps ('98-'00)
- Lt. General Joseph E. DeFrancisco, USA (Ret.)**
Deputy Commander in Chief and
Chief of Staff of United States Pacific Command ('96-'98)
- Admiral Walter F. Doran, USN (Ret.)**
Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet ('02-'05)
- Lt. General James M. Dubik, USA (Ret.)**
Commander, Multi National Security Transition Command and
NATO Training Mission-Iraq ('07-'08)
- General Ralph E. Eberhart, USAF (Ret.)**
Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command/Commander,
U.S. Northern Command ('02-'04)
- Admiral Leon A. Edney, USN (Ret.)**
Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic/Commander in Chief,
U.S. Atlantic Command ('90-'92)
- Admiral James O. Ellis, Jr., USN (Ret.)**
Commander, U.S. Strategic Command ('02-'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)
- General Robert H. Foglesong, USAF (Ret.)**
Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe ('04-'05)
- Admiral S. Robert Foley, USN (Ret.)**
Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet ('82-'85)
- General John R. Galvin, USA (Ret.)**
Supreme Allied Commander, Europe/Commander in Chief,
U.S. European Command ('87-'92)
- Lt. General Robert G. Gard, Jr., USA (Ret.)**
President, National Defense University ('77-'81)
- Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN (Ret.)**
Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff ('05-'07)
- Lt. General Arthur J. Gregg, USA (Ret.)**
Army Deputy Chief of Staff ('79-'81)
- 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)
- General John W. Handy, USAF (Ret.)**
Commander, U.S. Transportation Command and 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)
- Admiral Ronald J. Hays, USN (Ret.)**
Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command ('85-'88)
- General Richard D. Hearney, USMC (Ret.)**
Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('94-'96)
- 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 Patrick M. Hughes, USA (Ret.)**
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency ('96-'99)
- General James L. Jamerson, USAF (Ret.)**
Deputy Commander in Chief,
U.S. European Command ('95-'98)
- 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 John P. Jumper, USAF (Ret.)**
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force ('01-'05)
- Admiral Timothy J. Keating, USN (Ret.)**
Commander, US Pacific Command ('07-'09)
- Lt. General Richard L. Kelly, USMC (Ret.)**
Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics ('02-'05), Vice Director for
Logistics, Joint Staff ('00-'02)
- 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,

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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 Bruce B. Knutson, USMC (Ret.)

Commanding General, Marine Corp Combat Command ('00-'01)

General Leon J. LaPorte, USA (Ret.)

Commander, United Nations Command, U.S. Combined Forces Command,
U.S. Forces Korea ('02-'06)

Admiral Charles R. Larson, USN (Ret.)

Commander, U.S. Pacific Command ('91-'94)

Vice Admiral Stephen F. Loftus, USN (Ret.)

Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Logistics ('90-'94)

General John Michael Loh, USAF (Ret.)

Commander, Air Combat Command ('92-'95)

Admiral T. Joseph "Joe" Lopez, USN (Ret.)

Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Commander in Chief,
Allied Forces Southern Europe ('96-'98)

General Lance W. Lord, USAF (Ret.)

Commander, U.S. Air Force Space Command ('02-'06)

Lt. General James J. Lovelace, USA (Ret.)

Commanding General, U.S. Army Central Command ('07-'09)

Admiral James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.)

Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard ('98-'02)

General Robert Magnus, USMC (Ret.)

Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('05-'08)

General Barry R. McCaffrey, USA (Ret.)

Commander, U.S. Southern Command ('94-'96)

Lt. General Dennis McCarthy, USMC (Ret.)

Commander, Marine Forces Reserve (01-05)

Vice Admiral Justin "Dan" 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 ('98-'01)

General David D. McKiernan, USA (Ret.)

Commander, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan ('08-'09)/Commander, US Army Europe ('05-'08)

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 of the
Third U.S. Army Forces Central Command ('00-'02)

Admiral John M. Nathman, USN (Ret.)

Commander, US. Fleet Forces Command ('05-'07)

Admiral Robert J. Natter, USN (Ret.)

Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet/Commander,
Fleet Forces Command ('00-'03)

Lt. General Gregory S. Newbold, USMC (Ret.)

Director of Operations, J-3 Joint Staff ('00-'02)

General William L. Nyland, USMC (Ret.)

Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('02-'05)

Lt. General Tad J. Oelstrom, USAF (Ret.)

Superintendent, U.S. Air Force Academy ('97-'00)

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 (ended in '98)

Lt. General Charles P. Otsott, USA (Ret.)

Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee ('90-'92)

Admiral William A. Owens, USN (Ret.)

Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1994-1996

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 ('00-'05); Commander,
Joint Task Force for Global Network Operations ('04-'05)

Vice Admiral Norman W. Ray, USN (Ret.)

Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee ('92-'95)

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,
Republic of Korea/U.S. Combined Forces Command ('90-'93)

Lt. General Michael D. Rochelle, USA (Ret.)

Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 Headquarters, United States Army ('06-'09)

Vice Admiral Ronald A. Route, USN (Ret.)

Naval Inspector General ('04-'07)

President, Naval War College ('03-'04)

General Peter J. Schoemaker, USA (Ret.)

Chief of Staff, U.S. Army ('03-'07)

Lt. General Norman R. Seip, USAF (Ret.)

Commander, 12th Air Force/Air Forces Southern ('06-'09)

General Henry H. Shelton, USA (Ret.)

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff ('97-'01)

Admiral Leighton W. Smith, Jr., USN (Ret.)

Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/ Commander in Chief, Allied
Forces Southern Europe ('94-'96)

Admiral William D. Smith, USN (Ret.)

U.S. Military Representative, NATO Military Committee ('91-'93)

Lt. General James N. Soligan, USAF (Ret.)

Deputy Chief of Staff for Transformation,

Allied Command Transformation ('06-'10)

General Carl W. Stiner, USA (Ret.)

Commander in Chief, U.S. Special Operations Command ('90-'93)

Vice Admiral William D. Sullivan, USN (Ret.)

U.S. Military Representative to NATO Military Committee ('06-'09)

Admiral Carlisle A. H. Trost, USN (Ret.)

Chief of Naval Operations ('86-'90)

Admiral Henry G. Ulrich

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 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)