

NOV 14 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As we prepare for smaller national security budgets, it is essential that we make smart choices. Adequately funding the Department of State along with the Department of Defense is critical.

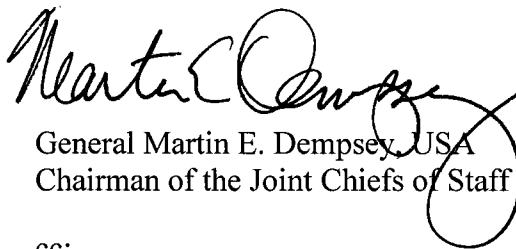
For years to come, the United States will be faced with a range of security challenges like violent extremism, ethno-sectarian conflict, failing states, rising powers, transnational criminal activity, and opportunities like the Arab Awakening. As you know, effectively addressing these challenges will require commitment and persistence and a range of tools. As Congress debates the level of defense funding needed for the next decade, I urge you also to weigh the less visible, but no less vital, security investments needed for diplomatic and development missions.

The United States has the best military in the world and we must protect it, but many of our security challenges require other instruments. The return on investment from robust diplomatic efforts and targeted development programs is the protection of both the lives of our people not sent into harm's way and our Nation's fiscal health as we prevent problems from leading to armed conflict.

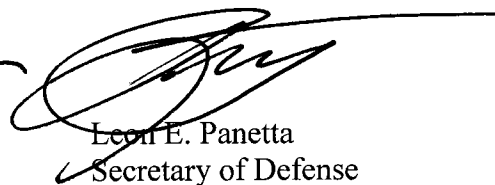
Diplomacy, backed by military might, is the ultimate guarantor of global commerce and stability. Military might alone cannot create stability. Additional civilian expertise is needed now. As we continue to transition from military operations to rule of law- and development-focused missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, now is not the time to put the future at greater risk by reducing our diplomatic and development resources.

The tremendous partnership between the Departments of State and Defense is becoming more essential in today's diverse national security environment. Both departments require adequate funding to ensure our combined efforts preserve our national interests and attain the Nation's goals.

Sincerely,



General Martin E. Dempsey, USA  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Leon E. Panetta  
Secretary of Defense

cc:

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman

NOV 14 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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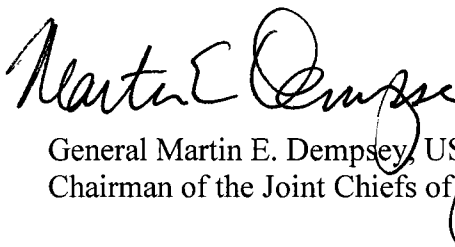
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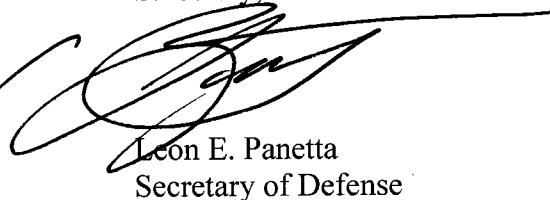
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General Martin E. Dempsey, USA  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Leon E. Panetta  
Secretary of Defense

cc:

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham  
Ranking Member

NOV 14 2011

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Chairman:

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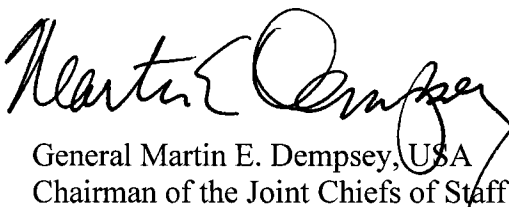
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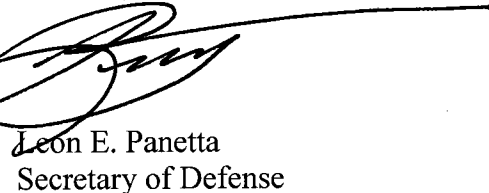
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General Martin E. Dempsey, USA  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Leon E. Panetta  
Secretary of Defense

cc:

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member

NOV 14 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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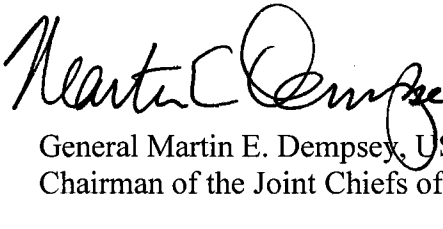
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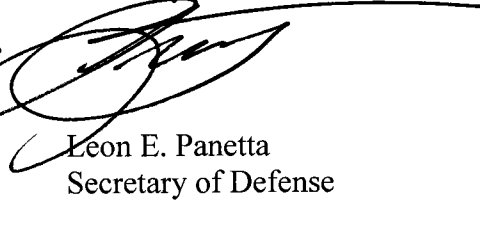
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Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Leon E. Panetta  
Secretary of Defense

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The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member