



Jack Markell
Governor of Delaware
Chair

Mary Fallin
Governor of Oklahoma
Vice Chair

Dan Crippen
Executive Director

January 7, 2013

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act created an independent National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force (Commission). As you consider appointments, the nation's governors urge you to include senior National Guard leaders to represent states on the Commission.

As commanders-in-chief of our National Guards, we care deeply about the Guard's ability to perform critical homeland defense and civil support missions. Through the Council of Governors (Council), the nation's governors have been deeply engaged with the Department of Defense (DoD) in an attempt to resolve budget disputes, including proposed disproportionate cuts to the Air National Guard. It is imperative that National Guard officials be included on the Commission to further discuss and resolve long-term strategic issues that came up during Council discussions with DoD.

Governors are prepared to recommend potential National Guard representatives for your consideration to serve on the Commission. Thank you for your continued support of the National Guard and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Governor Jack Markell
Chair

Governor Mary Fallin
Vice Chair

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Co-Chair
Council of Governors

Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Co-Chair
Council of Governors