Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2015

GEN Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret
NCFA
2530 Crystal Dr., Suite #5000
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

We write in support of the North Carolina Army National Guard and the Army National Guard in all 53 other states, territories, and the District of Columbia.

As you begin the very challenging task of evaluating how our nation's Total Army should be structured going forward, we urge you to fully consider the benefit of a continued robust role for the Army National Guard.

The Army National Guard brings to the table not only its considerable expertise in domestic operations, but a wealth of knowledge and experience in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. These capabilities provide the nation with an operational reserve, a critical reach-back capability, that is indispensible to America's ability to defend itself at home and project power where and when needed across the globe.

We echo the calls for you to sustain the combat role of the Army National Guard. Over multiple deployments, they have served shoulder-to-shoulder with active-duty Army Soldiers, service members of our other components as well as the armed forces of partner nations.

The Army National Guard provides a place for trained and experienced Soldiers to continue their service when they leave active duty. If we do not provide them with this avenue, we risk losing their skills and abilities.

Further, we ask that you equip the Army National Guard with the modern tools it needs to continue to do the tough jobs we ask of it as part of the Total Army's operational force.

The Army National Guard should not be favored over another Army component. The Guard, the Reserve, and the active force, should be properly balanced equipped and manned in order to provide our nation with the most effective fighting force possible. We believe that means a strong and effective Guard that remains available at all times to the nation's call to arms, which they have never failed to answer. We ask that you maintain the role of the Army National Guard as the essential operational reserve it has come to be over nearly a decade and a half of persistent conflict.

We appreciate your consideration of these requests and our concerns. As always, if we can do anything to be helpful please let us know.

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Sincerely,

David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows
Member of Congress

Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

David Price
Member of Congress

George Holding
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress