



**T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N**

201 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 838-8113

March 9, 2011

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

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

The Military Coalition, a consortium of nationally prominent military and veterans organizations, representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, wish to raise our concern over the lack of a FY2011 defense appropriations bill.

You have heard testimony from Defense Secretary Robert Gates and other defense officials on the serious predicament the department faces as a result of operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) for now over five months into the current fiscal year.

Continuing to operate under a CR will soon force the military Services to reduce flying hours and steaming days, defer equipment maintenance, cancel training events and exercises, and placed new acquisition and military construction programs on hold.

Operating under the CR for this long has created personnel turbulence. Some Services have frozen civilian hiring while others have delayed the issuing of permanent change-of-station orders to preserve greater funding flexibility. The latter postponement is causing even greater hardship for military families that are selling homes in a poor housing market.

All these knee-jerk reactions will create various unintended and costly long-term consequences, and, as Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn stated in testimony this week, "Do serious damage to the readiness of the world's finest military."

The Coalition believes a FY2011 defense appropriations bill is critically needed – especially in light of our Nation's current wartime commitments.

We implore Congress to act now and take positive measures to pass the appropriations bill. Passage will help avert further detrimental actions by DoD that have already started to negatively impact our military members and their families.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition  
(signatures enclosed)

cc: Senate Appropriations Committee Members

Michael M. D...  
Air Force Association

John ...  
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

Patricia M. Murphy  
Air Force Women Officers  
Associated

James B. King  
AMVETS

Rodney ...  
Army Aviation Assn. of America

George K. Anderson  
Assn. of Military Surgeons  
of the United States

William B. Lopez  
Assn. of the US Army

Timothy D. Moon  
Association of the United States Navy

AMSA  
Commissioned Officers Assn. of  
the US Public Health Service, Inc

Edward B. Swift  
CWO & WO Assn. US Coast Guard

...  
Enlisted Association of the  
National Guard of the US

...  
Fleet Reserve Assn.

Margaret M. Sidams  
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

...  
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans  
of America

...  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

...  
Marine Corps League

...  
Marine Corps Reserve Association

...  
Military Officers Assn. of America

...  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

...  
National Association for  
Uniformed Services

...  
National Guard Assn. of the US

...  
National Military Family Assn.

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Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

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Non Commissioned Officers Assn.  
of the United States of America

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Reserve Enlisted Assn. of the US

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Reserve Officers Assn

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Society of Medical Consultants  
to the Armed Forces

...  
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

...  
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

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USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

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U.S. Army Warrant Officers Assn.

...  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US



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The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

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