

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2012

General Craig McKinley
Chief, National Guard Bureau
111 S. George Mason Dr.
Arlington VA 22204

Dear General McKinley,

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) has recently issued public opposition of the 11th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation's (QRMC) recommendation to cut National Guard and Reserve drill pay in half. We the undersigned fully and strongly support NGAUS position on this matter and ask that you reject the recommendations of the QRMC.

This recommendation is an attempt by QRMC to "ensure equitable pay for similar service" with the active component. Unfortunately, comparing active pay to National Guard pay is in many ways comparing apples to oranges. As outlined in NGAUS Legislative Alert #12-12 which we have attached for your review, active duty forces on stateside assignments do not commonly work on weekends but receive full pay. They commonly work an eight hour workday, five days a week. When a National Guard member or Reservist attends a drill weekend, the Service Member is under the command and control of his/her leadership 24 hours around the clock until released. Drill weekend time clock starts at midnight on Friday and goes until midnight on Sunday. This adds up to a 48 hour period. Many units utilize this time fully, especially if the unit is scheduled to drill at a location, other than home station, for field or weapons training.

If a drill weekend for National Guard member is limited to create an accurate comparison with two active duty forces days of work, the National Guard forces training period would need to be abbreviated to an 8 hour day on Saturday and an 8 hour day on Sunday. This concept would without a doubt negatively affect training and readiness beyond reasonable limits.

Additionally, this recommendation would have severe effects on recruiting and retention. As stated in NGAUS Legislative Alert #12-12, the current drill pay structure is fair and without challenge. New recruits would not be motivated to join the National Guard by a pay chart that is half of what is currently provided and service members reaching periods of a decision for retention, are not as likely to stay making half the income.

To enforce a cut in reserve duty pay by half would be an insult to every National Guard Service Member and Reservist serving this nation. To consider a proposal of this nature is not only unreasonable, it is irresponsible. In a time where our active component is

being downsized, we should be doing everything we can to increase recruitment and retention in the reserve component among those who have a desire to continue serving our great country.

We ask for your sincere consideration of our position, and thank you for your service to our nation.

Sincerely,


Representative Steven Palazzo


Representative Charles Dent


Representative Lynn Westmoreland


Representative Rich Nugent


Representative Tim Holden


Representative Jeff Costello


Representative Vicky Hartzler


Representative Tom Cole


Representative Jon Runyan


Representative Steve King


Representative Roscoe Bartlett


Representative Frank LoBiondo


Representative Alan Nunnelee


Representative Marsha Blackburn



Representative Jim Gerlach



Representative Gregg Harper



Representative Adam Kinzinger



Representative Nick Rahall



Representative Tom Latham



Representative Phil Gingrey



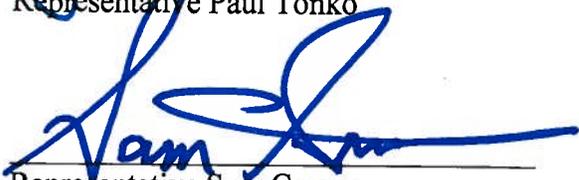
Representative Collin Peterson



Representative Paul Tonko



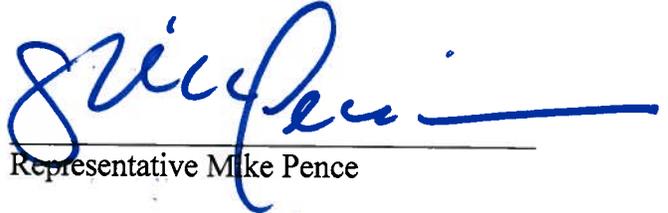
Representative Greg Walden



Representative Sam Graves



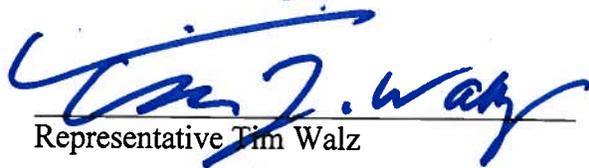
Representative Donna Christensen



Representative Mike Pence



Representative Tim Griffin



Representative Tim Walz

CC: The Honorable Leon Panetta,
Secretary of Defense

General Martin Dempsey
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff