

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL
HON. ELLEN TAUSCHER, CHAIR



EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.
GOVERNOR

May 15, 2014

California Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of California Governor Brown, we serve on the Governor's Military Council to support military, national security and aerospace operations in California. Our bipartisan group, comprised of retired flag officers, civic leaders and state legislators, works to articulate the unique national security value of California installations. We also work to strengthen California's support for military operations in our state.

We write to outline important priorities within the Defense Department budget that advance national security and benefit California. As you know, California's defense infrastructure is critical to our national security. Our state provides irreplaceable air, land and sea ranges, hosts dozens of important installations, and is home to companies building our military's most advanced technologies. The Department of Defense is a key economic engine in California, directly investing an estimated \$71 billion in employee salaries and contract expenditures in our state.

Our Council has convened meetings throughout California over the last year to gather installation-level information and input from military commanders, business leaders, community organizations and elected officials. We plan to deliver a report with our findings to state and federal leaders this summer, and look forward to sharing that report with you. In the meantime, as you consider Department of Defense budget, we urge you to champion these important priorities.

Avoid Sequestration – As our military draws down after more than a decade of major conflict, significant defense cuts are already being implemented by the Department of Defense. This budgetary realignment must be completed intelligently, prioritizing ongoing strategic needs and supporting proven cost-effective national defense capabilities. Continued sequestration is an opposite approach, requiring across-the-board cuts that impact all programs, regardless of strategic need or cost-efficiency. Failure to avoid sequestration for fiscal year 2016 puts at risk every single one of California's military bases and missions, more than 250,000 military personnel currently serving in California, and our defense-related economic base. Budget sequestration must not be allowed to return.

Firefighting Operations – The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense is proposing to remove the State's control of the Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) mission, a key National Guard system for fighting wildfires, by requiring

airmen to be in a Title 10 (federal) duty status when performing this mission. This change will reduce the unit commander's flexibility and response time, impose detrimental pay and benefit effects on servicemembers, and threaten life and property. We adamantly oppose this proposal.

Beyond firefighting, California relies heavily on its National Guard for disaster relief. Drastic proposed reductions to the Army's personnel and aviation assets would reduce our National Guard's disaster response capabilities. Proposed aviation cuts will likely result in aircraft vital to firefighting operations being spread out among other states, and personnel reductions would reduce the Governor's capacity to respond to emergencies such as fires, floods or earthquakes. California's population-to-guardsmen ratio already ranks dead last among all States, and any reduction in personnel levels or aviation assets must be met with staunch opposition.

Navy EA-18G Growler production – The Navy has recently submitted the requirement for 22 Growlers in its unfunded priorities list, which indicates the importance of this appropriation that was not included under the tight limitations of the Department of Defense's base budget submission. California manufacturers are responsible for much of the EA-18G program, which generates \$1 billion of economic impact across 274 businesses throughout the state. The current production line of this aircraft supports 20,000 jobs in the state. It has consistently delivered aircraft on schedule and on budget.

Without Congressional action, the EA-18G Growler line will be forced to close after Fiscal Year 2016, ending our nation's only full-spectrum electronic warfare aircraft production line and leaving our military without this critical national defense capability. This cancellation would leave our military short of its joint electronic attack requirement and, if needed, make future procurement of these critical assets virtually impossible. Recognizing the importance of this aircraft, Congress added \$75 million in advanced procurement funding for EA-18G Growlers in FY14. We support funding the procurement of 22 EA-18G Growlers in FY15.

Shipbuilding – The Navy faces a major annual funding shortfall of approximately \$4 billion for shipbuilding, a problem compounded over time by underinvestment and procurement delays. Budget constraints have exacerbated this problem, leading the Navy to consider retiring an aircraft carrier, deactivating 11 of its 21 cruisers, and canceling the future procurement of the Littoral Combat Ship. Each of these decisions would significantly impact California; one aircraft carrier alone adds an estimated \$500 million annually to the California economy. All efforts should be made to ensure shipbuilding funding matches strategic requirements, and that no ship is taken from California as the Department of Defense increases the strategic priority of the Pacific theater.

Air Force Aviation Force Structure Changes – The Air Force is realigning its force structure to meet its fiscal constraints, divesting or retiring approximately 500 aircraft over the next five years. Although the effects of this realignment on California are mixed, there are specific areas where we believe timely action could yield results. We support the Air Force's decision to bring the KC-135 back to Beale AFB, and to boost future funding for the Global Hawk unmanned system. Additional priorities include positioning California Air Force bases to receive the next generation of remotely piloted air, ground and sea systems and creating a

strong industrial base to develop these technologies, and replacing our aging KC-10 tankers with the next-generation KC-46 aircraft.

Additionally, the Air Force's proposal to reduce the number of F-15 fighter jet aircraft in Southern California is of paramount concern. The retirement of these three aircraft would make it nearly impossible for California's 144th Fighter Wing of the California National Guard to maintain an around-the-clock alert status at its two mission sites, March Air Reserve Base and Fresno International Airport. This mission is critical to the national and homeland security of America's western flank, as these aircraft that are tasked with immediately responding to unauthorized incursions into our airspace. We oppose reducing these critical National Guard aircraft.

Lastly we invite you to contact us with any questions you may have about this letter or when issues arise on which we may be supportive. Our Council's point of contact is Andreas Mueller, federal liaison for the California Military Department. Andreas can be reached by telephone at 202-624-5272 and by email at andreas.mueller7.nfg@mail.mil. More information about the Governor's Military Council, and national security infrastructure in California, is available on our website at <http://militarycouncil.ca.gov>.

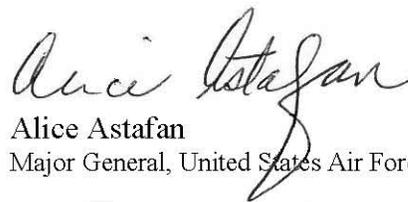
We thank you for your hard work and support of our military and look forward to working with you on these priority issues and others as they arise.

Sincerely,

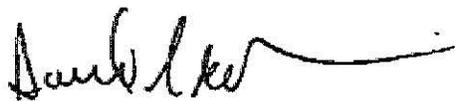
Members of the California Governor's Military Council



Honorable Ellen O. Tauscher
Chair, Governor's Military Council



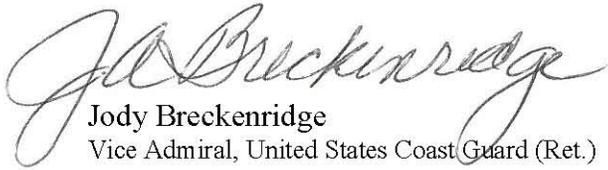
Alice Astafan
Major General, United States Air Force (Ret.)



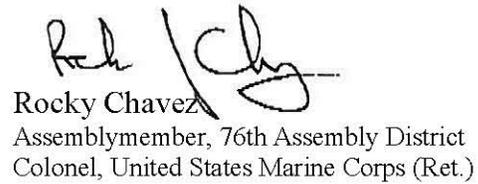
David S. Baldwin
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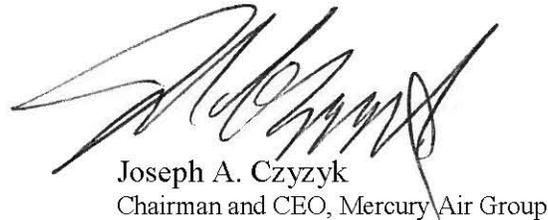
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Honorable Philip E. Coyle III



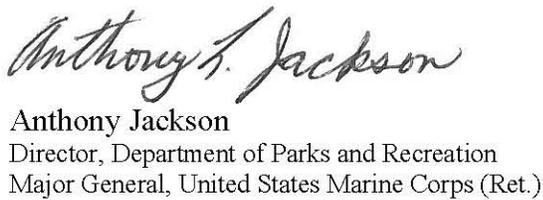
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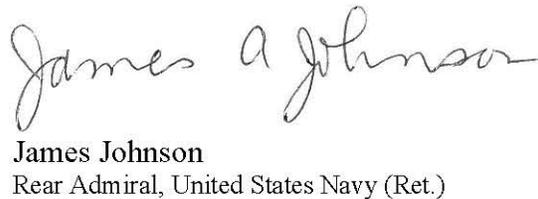
Charles A. Giacchi
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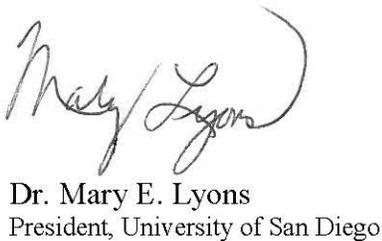
James Johnson
Rear Admiral, United States Navy (Ret.)



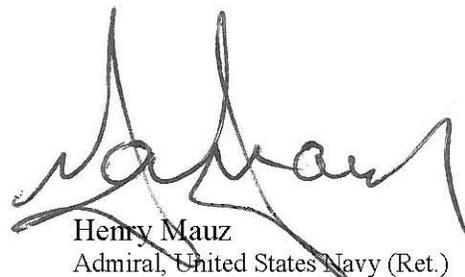
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