

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



EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.
GOVERNOR

3 June, 2015

California Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., 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 underscore the unique national security value of California installations. We also work with state leaders to strengthen California's support for military operations in our state.

We write to request your support in eliminating impending budget cuts to our military, known as sequestration. We do so in the midst of troubling world events that threaten our national security, requiring a defense budget that reflects these concerns.

Defense strategy must drive defense budgets. Today's heightened national security threats did not exist in 2011 when the Balanced Budget Act's sequestration was passed. Unfortunately, since then sequestration has loomed over our military leaders each year, constraining strategic efforts and technological development, while diminishing our military's capabilities. Former Commander of U.S. Central Command, General James Mattis explained at a January congressional hearing that: "no foe in the field can wreak such havoc on our security that mindless sequestration is achieving." In addition, each one of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have testified to Congress that sequestration would mean the U.S. would be unable to execute its National Military Strategy.

We appreciate that Congress must exercise fiscal prudence, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely by promoting efficiencies and weeding out waste. We believe that this fiscal oversight can be accomplished without automatic cuts to our national defense through sequestration. We urge Congress to immediately find a solution to sequestration.

We look forward to working with you to support our men and women in uniform. Our staff contact for the Governor's Military Council is Andreas Mueller, in the Governor's Washington D.C. office, who can be reached at 202-734-1478, or andreas.mueller7.nfg@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Members of the Governor's Military Council



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



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



David S. Baldwin
Major General, US Army
Adjutant General, California Military Department



Thomas R. Berard
Senior Executive Service
Department of the Air Force (Ret.)



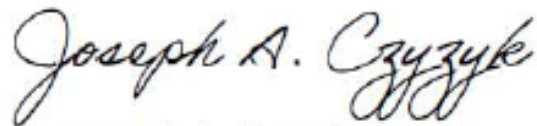
Vice Admiral Jody Breckenridge
United States Coast Guard (Ret.)



Rocky Chavez
Assemblymember, 76th District
Colonel, US Marine Corps (Ret.)



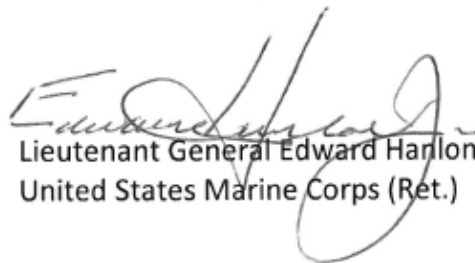
Honorable Philip E. Coyle III



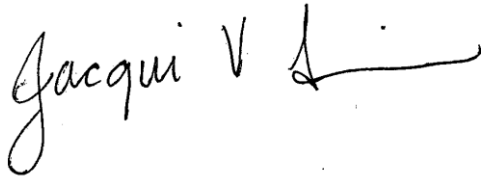
Joseph A. Czyzyk
Chairman and CEO, Mercury Air Group



Charles A. Giacchi
Senior Executive Service
Department of the Navy (Ret.)



Lieutenant General Edward Harlon
United States Marine Corps (Ret.)



Jacqui Irwin
Assemblymember, 44th District



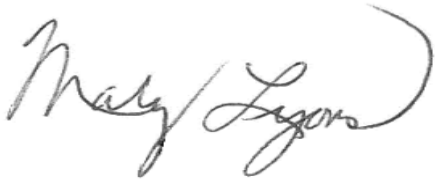
Major General Anthony Jackson
United States Marine Corps (Ret.)



Rear Admiral James Johnson
United States Navy (Ret.)



Dennis Kenneally
Major General, US Army (Ret.)




Dr. Mary E. Lyons
President, University of San Diego



Rear Admiral Benjamin Montoya
United States Navy (Ret.)



Vice Admiral Daniel Oliver
United States Navy (Ret.)



Richard Roth
State Senator, 31st Senate District
Major General, US Air Force (Ret.)



Lieutenant General Eugene Tattini
United States Air Force (Ret.)