



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

MAR 01 2013

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell:

As you are likely aware, due to the inability of Congress to reach a deal on balanced deficit reduction to avoid sequestration, the President will be required by law to issue a sequestration order later today canceling approximately \$85 billion in budgetary resources across the Federal Government, of which nearly \$41 billion would come from the Department of Defense (DoD). Another sequestration order could be issued later this month, which could result in a combined reduction for DoD of as much as \$46 billion – roughly a 9 percent reduction in our entire budget except for military personnel funding, which current law permitted the President to exempt.

These cuts must be fully accommodated during the remaining seven months of Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. In addition, the current DoD appropriation (the so-called Continuing Resolution) does not allocate adequate funding for current operations, which greatly adds to the Department's FY 2013 budgetary problems. Because your State plays an important part in supporting DoD and our national security, we wanted to provide you with the information we currently have available about how these unfortunate budgetary adjustments impact us, and in turn what it means for our installations and contractors in Virginia.

We do not yet have a complete inventory of the required cutbacks, but I can provide some examples: The Navy will have to cancel maintenance on 11 ships in Norfolk and to defer four projects at Dahlgren, Oceana, and Norfolk. The Army would lose \$146 million in base operations funding across Virginia, including cuts at Fort Lee and Fort Belvoir. The Air Force would suffer a cut of about \$8 million to their facilities projects at Langley Air Force Base. We are still assessing detailed changes and will be able to provide additional information on cutbacks in Virginia as we compile a more complete list.



In addition, to accommodate all the cutbacks that would be imposed in the absence of further Congressional action, we will be forced to place most of our DoD civilian employees on unpaid furlough status for up to 22 discontinuous workdays. Almost certainly, this unfortunate action has already had serious adverse effects on the morale and productivity of the approximately 90,000 DoD civilian employees who work in Virginia. If we have to impose these furloughs, it will mean roughly a 20 percent pay cut over a nearly six month period for these dedicated civil servants, who in turn will presumably spend less in your economy. We estimate that a 22-workday furlough could result in a payroll reduction of about \$661 million just in Virginia.

Lastly, it should be noted that sequestration will also affect Defense contractors and, therefore, the industrial base in your State.

While these reductions are unfortunate and will be damaging, the Department is doing everything within our power to minimize adverse effects on our national security mission. In addition, we are prepared to work closely with you to manage these reductions to the extent that we can. Should Congress take subsequent actions that change the level or nature of these reductions, we are committed to working closely with you to manage changes quickly.

Thank you for your continued partnership with the Department of Defense and for your cooperation as we work together to accommodate these unfortunate circumstances.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ashton B. Carter". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.