



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JUL 12 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington DC 20503

Dear Mr. Mulvaney:

Consistent with past practice and in accordance with the authority of subsections 251(a)(3) and 255(f) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (as amended), the Department of Defense requests that the military personnel appropriations be exempted, if a sequester is necessary for Fiscal Year 2018. Exempting military personnel appropriations from sequester is in the national interest to safeguard the resources necessary to compensate the men and women serving to defend our nation. Further, I appreciate your support in providing the proper notification to the Congress in order to ensure that our service members are paid for their service.

John H. Mattis





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AUG 25 2017

The Honorable John "Mick" Mulvaney
Director, United States Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

Today I approved a plan tasked by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 2017 NDAA) that details a process for the Defense Security Service to assume responsibility for conducting background investigations for Department of Defense (DoD) personnel. The increasing backlog in background investigations is creating an unacceptable negative impact to DoD mission readiness and the acquisition of key weapon systems. It is thus my intent to develop and execute this plan as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Elements of the plan must be further developed and analyzed in close partnership with the National Background Investigations Bureau (NBIB) and the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing Executive Agents. Recognizing the complexity of such an undertaking, and the potential impacts across the Executive Branch, I have directed my staff to assemble a Cross-Functional Team of experts to expand on our existing work in a coordinated manner that does not disrupt the ongoing operations of NBIB. My intent is to look beyond the realm of incremental improvements and take full advantage of today's technology to alleviate the burdens of costly, time-intensive investigations that are hampering DoD mission readiness.

I have further directed my staff to work closely with NBIB and the Executive Agents to look for ways to reduce and mitigate the investigative backlog, while complying with national standards and promoting reciprocity across government. The Department recognizes that this issue not only affects the mission readiness of DoD, but that of the entire Federal Government. As options are developed and matured, they will be subjected to interagency review to ensure continued compliance with national policies, standards, and law.

I invite your attention and active participation in these efforts, for we cannot succeed without a close partnership with our colleagues from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), and Office of Personnel Management (OPM). My staff has established contact with counterparts in each agency and is ready to get to work.

John Matis

