

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
AGRICULTURE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

December 2, 2010

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates,

I write in support of Rockland Economic Development Corporation's (REDC) application to continue to administer the Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) through the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of Small Business Programs. This distinction will allow the Rockland Economic Development Corporation to continue developing business in the Rockland County area.

As of 2011, the REDC will have been running the Hudson Valley PTAP program for 25 years. During this time, they have been helping businesses in New York State attain eligibility for participation in project bidding for the United States Government and Department of Defense. REDC has helped small businesses in the Hudson Valley leverage their knowledge and experience to compete for contracts and grow.

This distinction will continue to allow the REDC to work with local businesses in bidding on government contracts. The efforts of REDC have resulted in Hudson Valley businesses being rewarded over \$250 million in contracts annually. Additionally, by partnering with the Westchester County Office of Economic Development and the Westchester Industrial Development Agency as well as the Orange County Executive's Office and the Orange County Industrial Development Agency, REDC will continue to work to provide comprehensive economic development and jobs where they are needed. This distinction will allow businesses and the government to continue to interact efficiently, providing benefits for all parties involved.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Abraham Hiatt at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand

OSD 00-430-11



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

March 15, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20310-1010

Dear Secretaries Clinton and Gates,

It is my strong view that it is time to negotiate a Strategic Redeployment Agreement with Afghanistan that would mandate a date certain for the withdrawal of all United States combat forces no later than 2014. I am writing out of consideration for our changing national security challenges, my deep concern about the toll that the war in Afghanistan is taking on our troops and our country, and recognition of the fact that the Afghan and Pakistani governments are not taking steps critical to the war effort. I believe a clear combat redeployment agreement would help our efforts in Afghanistan by reinforcing Afghan sovereignty and protecting both the readiness and the flexibility we need to meet the full array of global security challenges that confront our country.

I have great confidence in the ability of our troops and the strategic focus of our commanders. The surge in Afghanistan has accomplished some substantial military gains. However, as the President has said, in laying out the strategy for Afghanistan, there are "three core elements of our strategy: a military effort to create the conditions for a transition; a civilian surge that reinforces positive action; and an effective partnership with Pakistan." Despite our civilian assistance, corruption in Afghanistan remains rife. As the near-collapse of Kabul Bank has demonstrated, corruption undermines Afghanistan's stability and the support of its people for their government. Without a strong, stable, and effective Afghan government, we risk serious domestic instability that opens the door to a return to control by the Taliban and related organizations of major parts of the country despite a U.S. military commitment. As for Pakistan, while I applaud the sacrifices Pakistan's military has made in fighting some insurgent groups, al Qaeda, the Afghan Taliban, the Haqqani network, and others continue to enjoy safe havens inside Pakistan, near the Pakistani-Afghan border, allowing them to resupply and direct the war in Afghanistan. Insufficient dedication from Kabul and Islamabad undermines our military investment in Afghanistan.

I am also concerned that the drain on our resources in Afghanistan may deteriorate our flexibility to address other global threats. In the past few months, upheavals in the Middle East have posed new challenges for our government as a whole, including the military. Yet, our flexibility of response appears to be compromised in part by our ongoing military involvement in

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two other Muslim majority countries. Top U.S. intelligence officials have said that Al Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula is a greater national security challenge than bin Laden. And al Qaeda's reach appears to be increasingly global – spreading ideology and seeking recruits via the Internet and other methods - not limited to specific contests like the one in Afghanistan. U.S. strategy for countering terrorism needs to be far more nimble, innovative, and global than the troop-heavy counter-insurgency.

What I am suggesting is not to spell out every stage of U.S. troop redeployment from Afghanistan – specific redeployment decisions should be up to commanders on the ground and avoid giving the enemy a potential propaganda tool. Nor should we change the protection for our troops and flexibility for our mission that has been agreed in the U.S.-Afghanistan diplomatic notes exchange and the ISAF-Afghanistan Military Technical Agreement. I do not believe that a withdrawal agreement must necessarily limit our training or counter-terrorism missions, or protection for our civilian development programs. It is critical, however, that we provide for a date certain for withdrawal of our combat forces, in order to give certainty to the American people; to ensure maximum flexibility in responding to other contingencies; and to publicly endorse the Afghan Government's assumption of lead responsibility as planned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten E. Gillibrand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR

ROOM 311 - SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
5177 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4441

COMMITTEES:
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AGRICULTURE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

April 19, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Pentagon
Washington DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I was troubled to learn recently that Admiral Mullen and senior Army and Marine Corps leaders are frustrated by the inability to quickly get magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment to Afghanistan.

It is our senior military leaders' judgment that the introduction of MRI machines to Afghanistan could significantly assist military medical professionals treating our troops with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Their judgment is backed by medical evidence. The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center indicates that MRIs are often used to diagnose the extent of the head injury and help identify mild, moderate, severe or penetrating TBI. Scientists leading a collaborative TBI study between the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center and Columbia University lauded the use of a functional MRI to help identify traumatic brain injury in "patients [who] have symptoms of injury, but the physical evidence is not obvious."

With over 300 U.S. troops a month incurring concussions in Afghanistan in the last year, we owe it to our brave men and women to provide them the best possible medical care. I strongly support the Chairman's position and am requesting you use your authorities to expedite the procurement and deployment of MRI equipment. If there is anything I can do to assist you in completing this action, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 13, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates,

I write in support of Daemen College's application for increased funding through the Center for Veterans and Veterans' Family Services Program through the U.S. Department of Defense. This will allow for increased academic, financial and social services for Western New York's veterans.

The Daemen College Center for Veterans and Veterans' Family Services serves as a critical resource that provides to student veterans and their families. Upon returning from service, some of our veterans are faced with personal, family, health, and social difficulties that can hinder their progress and achievement of personal goals. The Center for Veterans serves as an important training and education center that helps address the unique needs of service members.

The proposed funding would assist in the expansion of the Center for Veterans and Veterans' Family Services and provide for targeted assistance towards National Guard members and Reservists who have recently fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. The center will focus on reestablishing normal family life following deployment, increasing comprehensive research of mental health issues related to military deployment, and the developing a tiered education system designed to assist veterans with reentry into the job market. These efforts will provide an important framework that will help to improve the quality of life of our veterans.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Abraham Hiatt at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand

OSD 07335-11



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SHERATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

July 13, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Panetta,

I write in support of SynairCo's application for increased funding through the Solar and Waste Heat Powered Environmental Control for Buildings Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Defense's Small Business Innovation Research Program. This funding will allow SynairCo to design, build and lab-test a second generation, split air stream desiccant unit for temperature control.

SynairCo, which is located in Ithaca, NY, is a company that hopes to create energy efficient air conditioners that do not use environmentally harmful refrigerants. The proposed funding would allow SynairCo to develop a second generation of their high tech air conditioner, moving their project closer to the final stage of development and commercialization. Testing has shown that this unit is more energy efficient than traditional air conditioners, and two to three times more efficient than other emerging temperature control technologies, such as absorption systems. Upon beginning full scale production of the unit, this new technology has the potential to create hundreds of jobs in a growing manufacturing sector in Upstate New York, an area that would benefit greatly from such economic growth.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Abraham Hiatt at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand

OSD 09381-11



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

October 27, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Pentagon
Washington DC 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta,

After meetings with cyber leaders from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, USCYBERCOM, and your Director of Chief Information Office (CIO) Management Services, I am impressed by the enormity of the task before you in this relatively new field. Despite the good work done by those organizations, I continue to be concerned that the lack of cross-cutting, clear definitions of cyber personnel throughout the Defense Department (DoD) is a significant hindrance to your ability to carry out this significant mission.

I know you share my concerns about the threat cyberwarfare poses to our national security. I thought your testimony warning that "the next Pearl Harbor we confront could very well be a cyber attack that cripples our power systems, our grid, our security systems, our financial systems, our governmental systems" was a blunt and accurate warning. Our mutual worry was underscored by Admiral Mullen during his testimony with you in September where he identified cyber as "one of two existential threats to our country".

Given that our fundamental "weapon" in the cyber arena is a talented, patriotic and well trained cyber expert, our ability to recruit, train and maintain cyber personnel is critical to this mission. While General Alexander has standardized roles and responsibilities that support the USCYBERCOM mission, the lack of standardization across the Department as to what constitutes "cyber" and the lack of a single entity empowered to address the multitude challenges of cyber education, and innovative recruiting and employment authorities across all services, in the military and civilian workforces, gravely hampers your ability to build a strong and resilient cyber system.

I have found the definitional issue is pervasive across the Department and impacts everything from budgets, acquisition, to force structure. It is an acknowledged problem by everyone with whom I and my staff have spoken outside of the personnel associated specifically with the USCYBERCOM. It appears to me that none of the Services, USCYBERCOM, or the DoD CIO has the ability to address key cyber issues across the entire Department. One example was bringing standardization to recruitment, training, and the dozens of cyber occupational specialties in the military. The representatives from each Service acknowledged they could only their branch: USCYBERCOM acknowledged they were not equipped with the authorities to address these issues holistically; and the DoD CIO indicated their span of control was, for the most part, limited to DoD

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civilians. This shortfall was also identified at a recent cyber workshop at the National Defense University (NDU), by the Director of Training for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Readiness. He said "we need a DoD cyber lead; it needs to be managed by a central component – it's currently fragmented"

I believe it is imperative that we seek out and implement bold ideas and initiatives to address these and other cyber shortfalls. At the NDU workshop, the Department of Homeland Security's Director National Cybersecurity Workforce Structure Strategy told the audience the question is not "do we need to grow our cyber workforce?", but "how do we grow a cyber workforce fast". I agree with her assessment.

In the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee, I included Section 1076, which would request a report on these issues and specifically recommend consideration of a dedicated Cyber ROTC, Reserve and/or Guard component, which would leverage the skills of a civilian cyber workforce. The added benefit of such a component would be the ability of the Guard to safeguard our civilian infrastructure. As we work to address the challenges of the emerging cyber domain, this would be a bold step in addressing what Admiral Mullen called an existential threat.

I am confident you are the right person at the right time in our history with the vision to institute sweeping changes in how we approach this emerging existential threat. I look forward to working with you to address these difficult challenges and ensure our nation is protected against our adversaries' growing arsenal of cyber capabilities.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

July 1, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gates and Secretary Shinseki:

First, I want to commend both of you on your aggressive efforts in identifying Traumatic Brain Injury as the signature wound to our American service members who have valiantly served our great Nation in Overseas Contingency Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The steps that you have taken to establish a *Federal Recovery Coordination Program* is to be commended. Clearly, it is America's responsibility to ensure that our joint war-fighters are able to recover from their injuries, gain access to the finest rehabilitation services available, and reintegrate into society to pursue a normal fulfilling life after their service.

At a strategic level these efforts are commendable. However, I believe much more work needs to be done to ensure that this visionary alignment occurs not only between the Secretaries involved, but also at a patient centered, customer service level, integrated between all three branches of service and with Veterans Affairs. Ultimately, alignment strategies will serve to increase efficiency in the delivery of health care services, remove redundancy, and relieve the financial responsibilities by embracing cost sharing methodologies between both departments.

I am particularly concerned that after nine years engaged in Overseas Contingency Operations we still do not have a referenced, functional and interoperable definition of Traumatic Brain Injury. Is there a definition that is in development? This definition should of course reflect tri-service input, but also should be integrated between the services and interoperable with the Veterans Affairs Health Care System. The Department of Veterans Affairs will be responsible for the health care of our service members who are released or retired from active duty with a disability. It only seems reasonable that Veterans Affairs should be considered an equal partner and have a voice at the table. In my meetings with veterans across New York, it often seems that this is the weakest link in the delivery of timely and efficient health care.

Another area of concern which could be aided by improved coordination is the significant increase in prescriptions for Psychotropic Medications. It was identified at a recent hearing on military health that in the earlier years of this decade, approximately 100,000 prescriptions were



given for the treatment of psychological health issues and suicide associated with mild Traumatic Brain Injury. However, in the later years this number has grown to over 300,000 prescriptions. Are there non-pharmaceutical interventions available that could be explored to address this issue? In particular, we must ensure that a heavy reliance on prescription drugs is not used as a stopgap measure in lieu of effective treatments over the long-term. This issue in particular validates the need to bring Veterans Affairs as an equal partner in developing a synchronized delivery of quality health care to our service members.

Your mutual strategic vision is admirable and once integrated, health care delivery between the three branches of service and Veterans Affairs at all levels would be transparent and clear to our men in uniform. It will increase the efficiency of health care delivery, ensuring that all of our returning service members have access to effective care and treatment, and the resultant cost saving strategies will allow valuable resources to be applied to other areas vital to our national security.

I request your vigilance on these issues, and look forward to any information that you can present regarding an integrated and interoperable definition of Traumatic Brain Injury and associated non-pharmaceutical treatment protocols. American service members deserve the very best and most expeditious care available in addressing this serious and potentially lifelong healthcare issue.

Sincerely,

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Kirsten E. Gillibrand