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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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June 11, 1996

The Honorable William J. Perry  
Secretary of Defense

(b)(6)  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Perry:

From April 22 through April 28, you and the Department of Defense afforded me a rare opportunity to be a part of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. Since my background never included much experience with America's Armed Forces, this was, and always will be, one of the lifetime events which I shall never forget.

I am proud of the young men and women in the Air Force, the Army, the Coast Guard, the Navy and the Marines because of the pride they take in their jobs. I understand the challenges they face in doing their jobs while they care for their personal needs and in many cases for their families. And I see many similarities between the challenges of the Armed Forces and those of the civilian sector: downsizing, budget constraints, the need for creative leadership in a rapidly changing global environment, the need for good health care and, especially in the case of the Armed Forces, the need for personal time off with their families.

I wish to recognize the following persons for their roles in making this week-long conference one of such high quality: Clifford Bernath, Linda Tripp, (b)(6) and the project officers, (b)(6) of the Air Force, (b)(6) of the Army, and (b)(6) of the Marine Corps. Since I was on the Navy "team," I want to give special recognition to (b)(6) of the Navy who was outstanding in every way.

We can all be thankful for the high caliber people who are entering the Armed Forces today. I am confident that with good leadership, mentoring and some freedom to grow and be creative, they, too, will be the leaders America will need in the 21st century.

I wish to thank you, Secretary Perry, for inviting me to this year's JCOC. I have also thanked General Shalikashvili for nominating me. It will be my pleasure to encourage all to whom I can reach out, to get to know more about the Armed Forces and the exemplary men and women of America who are a part of them.

In closing I take the liberty of reminding you of Town Hall Los Angeles' invitation to address our forum. Now that I am an alumna of JCOC 59, I hope you will do me the honor of hosting you soon.

Sincerely,

*Adrienne Medawar*  
Adrienne Medawar  
President

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