



APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

December 16, 2019

Lieutenant General Daniel Hokanson
Director, Army National Guard
111 S. George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22204

Lieutenant General Scott Rice
Director, Air National Guard
1000 Air Force Pentagon, Suite 4E126
Washington, DC 20330-1070

Dear Lieutenant General Hokanson and Lieutenant General Rice,

During our July 2019 Plenary meeting, the Council of Governors (Council) selected full-time support for the National Guard as a top priority. The Council also decided to utilize *the "2013 State-Federal Consultative Process for Programming and Budgetary Proposals Affecting the National Guard"* (Consultative Budget Agreement) as the mechanism to provide federal partners with state input on full-time staffing needs for Army and Air National Guard components for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2022 President's budget request and beyond.

As one of the full-time support work group's three lines of effort, states agreed to provide the Department of Defense observations, analyses and future requirements of full-time support manning. This letter is intended to meet this milestone.

First and foremost, as affirmed in the Department of Defense July 2019 report to congressional defense committees titled *"Full-Time Support Effect on Readiness"*, full-time support personnel are critical to ensuring the reserve component's readiness and ability to support the Department's missions at home and around the world. The ability of the reserve component to proactively and capably ensure adequate administration, recruitment, training, maintenance and supply support is dependent on sufficient full-time support. Guardsmen who are not full-time in nature are supported by this core group of full-time staff, comprising on average 22.2 percent of the reserve component.

The Council's ultimate goal for full-time support personnel is to achieve parity between components and services. As such, the Council requests the Department of Defense maintain the current Air National Guard staffing level and increase the Army National Guard to 80 percent of validated full-time support requirements as part of its Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

As noted in the Department's July 2019 report to Congress, the Air National Guard is manned at 34,149 personnel, representing 84.9 percent of the Air Force's established full-time support requirement of 40,223. The Air Force Reserve is manned at 15,801 personnel who are 95.2 percent of the Air Force's validated full-time support requirement of 16,598. The US Army Reserve is manned at 24,086 personnel, totaling 88 percent of the Army's validated requirement of 27,496.

However, the Army National Guard is manned at 57,702 personnel representing 63.8 percent of the established 90,362 requirement, by far below the percentage levels of other reserve components.

We believe that the Air National Guard's full-time support levels are on par with the stated goal of meeting its validated requirement, but governors remain concerned that the Army National Guard full-time support levels are, at this time, not meeting the needs of the Nation.

Since 2001, use of the National Guard nationwide has shifted from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve, requiring more frequent and regular deployments in order to support nation's domestic and warfighting needs. This trend is unlikely to change and warrants a re-look at National Guard requirements for full-time support.

We respectfully request the Department of Defense ensure adequate funding in its future budgets to meet minimum full-time support levels and ensure the readiness of the National Guard to support its federal missions.

Sincerely,



Governor Asa Hutchinson
Governor of Arkansas
Co-Chair



Governor David Ige
Governor of Hawai'i
Co-Chair

Cc
Secretary of Defense
Secretary of the Army
Secretary of the Air Force
Chief of the National Guard Bureau