



**UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

May 16, 2013

The Honorable Martha Roby
Member of Congress
House of Representatives
428 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

Dear Representative Roby:

I am writing to advise the Committee that my testimony during the Army Posture Hearing on April 25, 2013 is no longer accurate. The Secretary and I stated that Fort Rucker could not train approximately 500 students due to sequestration impacts. The Army has since been able to distribute sufficient funding appropriated by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013 (Pub L 113-6 March 26, 2013) to restore aviation training at Fort Rucker.

The initial estimate projected a \$224.8M cut in funding resulting in a reduction in student load by at least 500 students. Because these students are already in the pipeline to Fort Rucker, the assessment turned to how many hold-overs might stack up if funding was not restored. It became clear that consequences of a \$224.8M cut would be catastrophic, resulting in a multi-year impact on aviation flight crew production and readiness starting with 620 hold-overs heading into FY14. This course of action was unacceptable and drove the decision to restore sufficient funding that, coupled with efficiencies such as a contract renegotiation and some early year maintenance savings, now enables the training at levels that prevent a large backlog.

At the time of the Army Posture Hearing, the Secretary and I testified using data from the earlier assessment, which changed following analysis of the funding provided by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act. While the restoration of funds is great news for Fort Rucker right now, the Army still faces a multi-billion dollar shortfall in Operation and Maintenance, Army (OMA) Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) dollars that could drive further decisions. I cannot guarantee training in many areas, including flight training, will not be affected by the end of the fiscal year.

Part of the Army shortfall may be mitigated by a pending reprogramming action. This reprogramming is critical to resourcing the war; however, we expect a significant shortfall will remain after the reprogramming, and are concerned about the impact of this shortfall on our base OMA funding. We greatly appreciate your support on this reprogramming as it will be a significant factor in stabilizing the Army's funding position for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Thank you for this opportunity to clarify my testimony. We appreciate your continuing support to our Soldiers and their Families. Army Strong!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Odierno', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army