



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

FEB 08 2014

The Honorable Vicky Hartzler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hartzler:

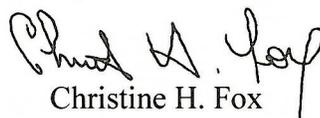
Thank you for your November 13, 2013, letter expressing support for the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and asking the Department of Defense (DoD) to review the Air Force's fiscal year 2015 (FY15) proposals as they relate to the A-10. I am responding to your letter on behalf of Secretary Hagel and General Dempsey.

I can assure you that, as part of the DoD's FY15 Program and Budget Review, the Department's senior leaders evaluate budget recommendations put forward by all the military services and defense agencies. The fiscal constraints imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011, even as adjusted by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, have forced the Department to make difficult choices to best balance force structure, readiness, and modernization. To avoid a readiness crisis and the loss of capabilities needed to keep our technological edge, DoD is seeking to retain only the people, equipment, and infrastructure that we can support and afford to keep trained and ready. In addition, we are continuing to work aggressively to find savings in headquarters costs and other overhead activities.

Because we are currently building DoD's FY15 budget submission, all of the Department's proposals are pre-decisional, and will remain so until the President delivers his FY15 budget request to the Congress. I look forward to sharing with you our analysis to support specific decisions following the budget submission.

Thank you for your support of the Department of Defense and for your service to our Nation.

Sincerely,


Christine H. Fox
Acting

