Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with statute, I am providing a report on potential civilian furloughs within the Department of Defense. Specifically, title 10, U.S.C., section 1597(e), provides that the Secretary of Defense “may not implement any involuntary reduction or furlough of civilian positions ... until the expiration of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress a report setting forth the reasons why such reduction or furloughs are required and a description of any change in workload or positions requirements that will result from such reductions or furloughs.” This letter provides the report and information required by this section.

We remain hopeful that the Administration and Congress will reach an agreement to avoid the across-the-board reductions in Federal spending required by the Budget Control Act of 2011, commonly known as “sequestration.” The Department must, however, continue to plan for such reductions should Congress not take action prior to sequestration taking effect on March 1, 2013. If sequestration is not avoided, the magnitude of the potential reductions will damage force readiness, slow major acquisition programs, and necessitate civilian furlough actions that will negatively affect our Federal civilian workforce. Overall, sequestration will put us on a path toward a hollow force and inflict serious damage on our national security.

If faced with sequestration, the Defense Department will be forced to forego critical objectives. As we make the difficult decisions about how to maintain our national security to the greatest extent we can in light of these destructive cuts, the Department will have to consider furloughs across the entire defense civilian workforce in order to meet the fiscal target mandated by sequestration. Because there will be no change in the requirements for work to be performed by the Department’s workforce to maintain our national security, the workload on each employee and the requirements for each position that will result from such furloughs will be increased beyond what can reasonably be achieved. The furloughs contemplated by this notice will do real harm to our national security. Moreover, we understand that furloughs would have serious adverse effects on the livelihood, morale, and productivity of our workforce, and where possible we will take steps to minimize those effects.
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Sincerely,

[Signature]
FEB 20 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Majority Leader:

In accordance with statute, I am providing a report on potential civilian furloughs within the Department of Defense. Specifically, title 10, U.S.C., section 1597(e), provides that the Secretary of Defense “may not implement any involuntary reduction or furlough of civilian positions ... until the expiration of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress a report setting forth the reasons why such reduction or furloughs are required and a description of any change in workload or positions requirements that will result from such reductions or furloughs.” This letter provides the report and information required by this section.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

cc:
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with statute, I am providing a report on potential civilian furloughs within the Department of Defense. Specifically, title 10, U.S.C., section 1597(e), provides that the Secretary of Defense "may not implement any involuntary reduction or furlough of civilian positions ... until the expiration of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress a report setting forth the reasons why such reduction or furloughs are required and a description of any change in workload or positions requirements that will result from such reductions or furloughs." This letter provides the report and information required by this section.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

cc:
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510  

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

cc:
The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

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Sincerely,

[signature]

cc:
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Vice Chairman
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

cc:
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
The Honorable Howard P. “Buck” McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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[Signature]

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
 Ranking Member