



May 5, 2009

The Honorable Dr Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We, the Adjutants General of the states, territories and District of Columbia, applaud your leadership during this period of persistent conflict. We particularly appreciate your commitment to our National Guard Soldiers and to the 12 month federal mobilization policy set forth in your 19 January 2007 "*Utilization of the Total Force*" memorandum. With two additional years' experience, we respectfully seek clarification of your policy as it relates to the states' responsibilities for preparing trained and ready National Guard forces for federal mobilization.

As we address our readiness responsibilities, we carefully balance the needs of Soldiers, families and employers; the training required for designated federal missions; and a host of state and local factors affecting the stability, sustainability and readiness of our force. In most cases, we are able to satisfy these requirements with a break between state training periods and the start of the 12 month federal mobilization. That is our shared overarching objective. In certain instances, however, turbulence for Soldiers, families and employers is minimized and individual Soldier readiness is significantly enhanced by a final state training period preceding or closely aligned with the federal mobilization.

No two pre-mobilization situations are alike. Governors and Adjutants General have a close relationship with our Soldiers, families, employers and communities and are uniquely able to balance their collective needs and desires. We trust this continued exercise of judgment is what you rely upon in limiting compulsory federal duty to 12 months and we respectfully request confirmation that this flexible State-Federal partnership continues to meet our nation's wartime requirements.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Francis D. Vavala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Francis D. Vavala
Major General
President

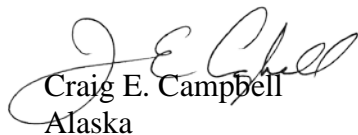
The Adjutants General



A.C. Blalock, Jr.
Alabama



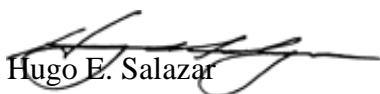
William T. Nesbitt
Georgia



Craig E. Campbell
Alaska



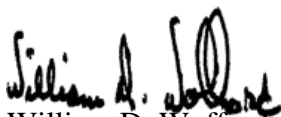
Donald J. Goldhorn
Guam




Hugo E. Salazar
Arizona



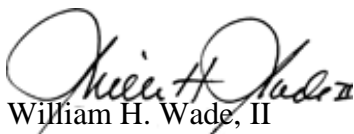
Robert G. F. Lee
Hawaii



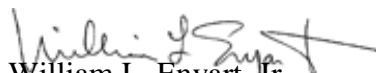
William D. Wofford
Arkansas



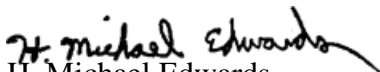
Lawrence F. Lafrenz
Idaho



William H. Wade, II
California



William L. Enyart, Jr.
Illinois



H. Michael Edwards
Colorado



R. Martin Umbarger
Indiana



Thaddeus J. Martin
Connecticut



G. Ron Dardis
Iowa



Errol R. Schwartz
District of Columbia



Tod M. Bunting
Kansas




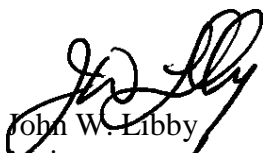
Douglas Burnett
Florida

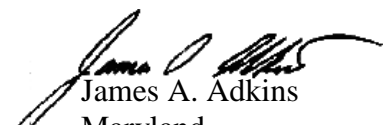


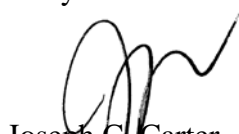
Edward W. Tonini
Kentucky


The Adjutants General

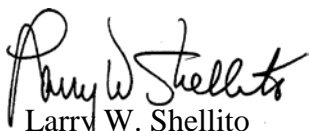

Bennett C. Landreneau
Louisiana

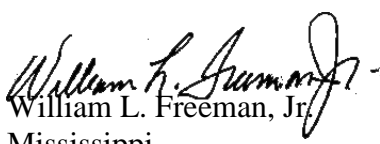

John W. Libby
Maine



James A. Adkins
Maryland

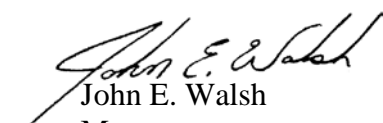

Joseph C. Carter
Massachusetts

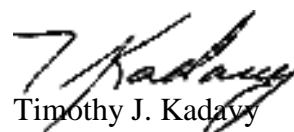

Thomas G. Cutler
Michigan


Larry W. Shellito
Minnesota



William L. Freeman, Jr.
Mississippi



Stephen L. Danner
Missouri

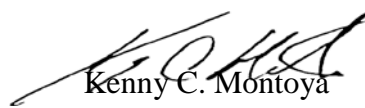

John E. Walsh
Montana


Timothy J. Kadavy
Nebraska

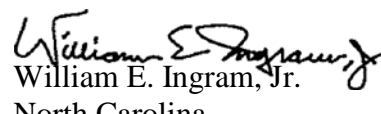

Cynthia N. Kirkland
Nevada



Kenneth R. Clark
New Hampshire

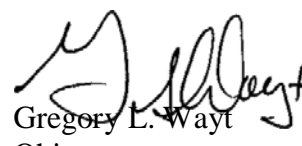

Glenn K. Rieth
New Jersey


Kenny C. Montoya
New Mexico

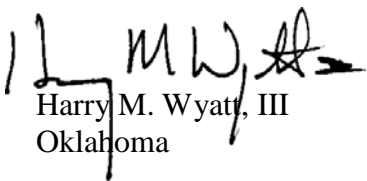

Joseph J. Taruto
New York


William E. Ingram, Jr.
North Carolina

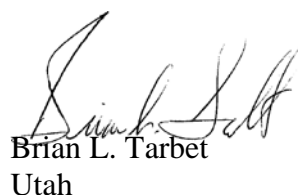

David A. Sprynczynatyk
North Dakota


Gregory L. Wayt
Ohio

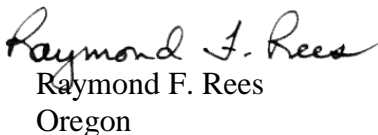
The Adjutants General



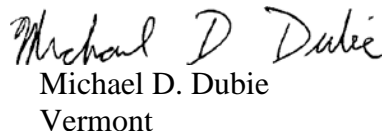
Harry M. Wyatt, III
Oklahoma



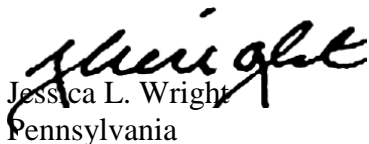
Brian L. Tarbet
Utah



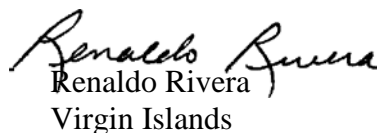
Raymond F. Rees
Oregon



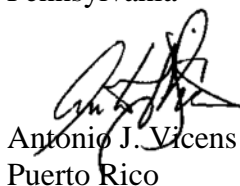
Michael D. Dubie
Vermont



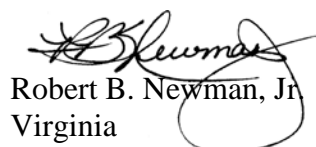
Jessca L. Wright
Pennsylvania



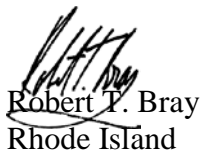
Renaldo Rivera
Virgin Islands



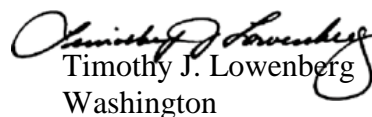
Antonio J. Vicens
Puerto Rico



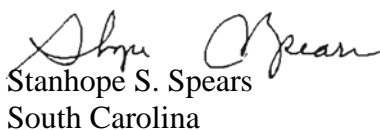
Robert B. Newman, Jr.
Virginia



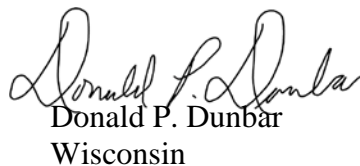
Robert T. Bray
Rhode Island



Timothy J. Lowenberg
Washington



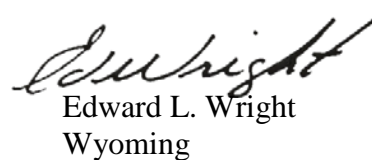
Stanhope S. Spears
South Carolina



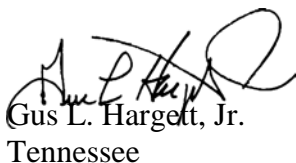
Donald P. Dunbar
Wisconsin



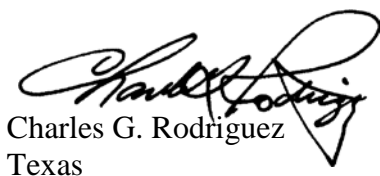
Steven R. Doohen
South Dakota



Edward L. Wright
Wyoming



Gus L. Hargett, Jr.
Tennessee



Charles G. Rodriguez
Texas