



April 22, 2009

The Honorable Pete Geren  
Secretary of the Army  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

The Honorable Michael Donley  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Washington, DC 20310-1670

Dear Secretary Geren and Secretary Donley:

The Adjutants General Association of the United States remains firmly united behind and committed to the Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) concept. The extraordinary success of our Army National Guard (ARNG) C-23 Sherpa units over the past 20 years is proof of the expeditionary and domestic soundness of the mission.

If the article in the *Early Bird* the other day is accurate, the Department of Defense is considering taking the "Joint" out of JCA and reducing acquisition by over 50 percent from the current requirements set by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council. This shift in policy is alarming, as ARNG fielding decisions made over four years ago were based on well-vetted aircraft recapitalization and homeland security requirements. A failure to acquire airframes in adequate numbers or to base them strategically across the states will negatively affect our ability to respond to domestic events both natural and man-made, as well as limit the mission to resupply troops in theater (which for the latter, continues to strain US Army rotary wing assets).

Should our concerns prove correct, we ask that you express to the Secretary of Defense our adamant opposition to the proposed changes and our need to seek redress. We believe that JCA procurement and fielding to the ARNG and Air National Guard as originally established are imperative to our national security and our Governors' emergency response requirements. Furthermore, they align with President Obama's intent, as stated on the White House website, to "equip, support and modernize the National Guard" by "provid(ing) the National Guard with the equipment it needs for foreign and domestic emergencies".

We stand ready to assist in preserving the JCA equities for the National Guard.

Very Respectfully,

Francis D. Vavala  
Major General, DEARNG  
President, AGAUS

cc: Chief, National Guard Bureau