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**J. Randy Forbes**  
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October 17, 2011

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Chair, Subcommittee on Defense  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young,

I write to express my concern with the recent funding reductions imposed on two organizations vital to the preservation and advancement of military jointness. Specifically, I am concerned with the reductions recommended by your subcommittee to Joint Systems Integration Command (JSIC) and reductions recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee to Joint Experimentation.

As you know, the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee recommended a reduction in funding from JSIC from the requested \$13 million to \$8 million. The subcommittee report cited excessive growth in its recommendation; however, JSIC's budget request for FY11 was \$19.5 million, or 33% more, than the request in FY12. Additionally, JSIC conducts vital assessments of existing and developing command and control equipment to ensure the systems are operable and integrated for use between the service's various systems and commanders. They are responsible for providing the technical expertise and engineering support necessary to ensure JSIC continues to play a vital role in ensuring that the US military can communicate as a joint force. Without this communication, clear and unified command of the world's finest joint fighting forces will be degraded and would constitute a significant step back in joint warfighting capabilities only months after the shuttering of JFCOM.

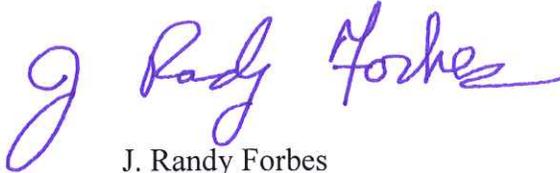
I am also concerned about the Senate Appropriations Committee's \$50 million reduction to the Joint Experimentation program in its report on H.R. 2219. After the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee recommended a reduction of \$10 million to the request of \$58.13 million, the SAC recommended cutting an additional \$40 million, leaving just \$8.13 million for this program. Joint Experimentation is vital in testing the operational concepts and plans that enable trained, ready, and adaptable joint and coalition forces. Failure to provide the funding necessary for Joint Experimentation puts our warfighters at risk in the future by not allowing the force to adjust its operational plans as we look toward an era of constrained resources.

Both of these functions were significantly reduced and their funding dramatically cut as part of the Department of Defense decision to close US Joint Forces Command (JFCOM).

Further reductions in their funding and operations will have an even greater detrimental effect on the ability of our armed forces to integrate capabilities and ensure a truly joint force in the future. I urge you to consider this request as you prepare to conference Defense Appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2012.

With kind personal regards, I am

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Randy Forbes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress