

ROB BISHOP  
1ST DISTRICT, UTAH

123 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-0453

324 25TH STREET  
SUITE 1017  
OGDEN, UT 84401  
(801) 625-0107

6 NORTH MAIN STREET  
BRIGHAM CITY, UT 84302  
(435) 734-2270

125 SOUTH STATE STREET  
SUITE 5420  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84138  
(801) 532-3244



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4401

October 26, 2011

COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES  
(ON LEAVE)

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

COMMITTEE ON RULES

CONGRESSIONAL WESTERN CAUCUS  
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN

10TH AMENDMENT TASKFORCE  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Michael B. Donley  
Secretary of the U.S. Air Force  
1690 Air Force - The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

TIME SENSITIVE

Dear Mr. Secretary:

For the past several months, I, along with other interested Members of Congress and Senators, have attempted to enter into a good-faith dialogue with the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) regarding its specific plans to reorganize in the face of the additional \$100 billion in defense cuts mandated by the Obama Administration.

Not only does Congress have a Constitutional role in exercising oversight of the Executive Branch, including the Department of Defense and all Military Departments, but we are also elected to represent communities, and tens of thousands of constituents, who would be directly impacted by any reorganization plans.

I have appreciated the positive working relationship my office and I have had with the Air Force over the years. Unfortunately, on this specific issue, our requests for open dialogue, transparency, and partnership with the highest levels of the Air Force and AFMC have continually been rebuffed. Specific information regarding the AFMC planning process and plans has been deliberately withheld from me, and other Members of Congress, as well as the Congressional defense committees. When pressed for information, Air Force officers have routinely cited so-called "non-disclosure" agreements as the reason for not responding. Non-disclosure agreements are discretionary with the Department and could be waived by you or the Secretary of Defense. These agreements have been greatly abused in this instance.

In the past three weeks, Lieutenant General Janet Wolfenbarger, USAF, Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, was tasked by you to meet with selected personal staff members of what is colloquially referred to as the "Air Force Depot Caucus," including members of my personal staff. It now seems apparent that the primary purpose of this effort was an attempt to mollify Congressional offices even as the Air Force continued to accelerate, in secret, the implementation of its far-ranging reorganizational plans. At the fourth meeting between Lt. Gen. Wolfenbarger and member staff which occurred yesterday, staff was informed that the Air Force plans to circumvent Congressional oversight by making a rushed, public announcement of the AFMC reorganization plans as early as Monday of next week. This is very troubling on many accounts.

First, in spite of repeated requests, Lt. Gen. Wolfenbarger has declined to provide specific answers to very specific questions involving both organization and budgetary impacts of the proposal.

The Honorable Michael B. Donley

PAGE 2:

October 26, 2011

Second, we have repeatedly requested that the AFMC reorganization plan be backed by a business-case analysis with solid numbers that clearly demonstrates that the net impacts would result in taxpayer savings. Not only have these repeated requests been denied, but Lt. General Wolfenbarger admitted in a written answer to staff questions in yesterday's meeting that, "*No formal BCA (Business Case Analysis) has been accomplished.*" This is a rather stunning admission on the part of the Air Force when trying to justify a major new reorganization plan ostensibly built on the need to save taxpayer dollars.

There has been a civilian hiring freeze in place for some time, and there appears to be well over 1,000 combined personnel vacancies at the Air Logistics Centers (ALCs). Those personnel "savings" have already been, and continue to be realized by AFMC. Therefore, I seriously question the extreme urgency with which AFMC appears to be pushing this plan.

Third, the Air Force should expect to be able to present to Congress a detailed plan containing the specific personnel reductions by title and grade at each individual losing location, as well as personnel additions at the two new 3-star bureaucracies that the AFMC plan would apparently create. For an open and transparent government process to prevail, the Air Force should expect that the Congress would require a reasonable amount of time for oversight. In the end, it may be that I could support the AFMC effort once the justifications are made apparent. However, the secretive process followed to date by the Air Force has not allowed adequate opportunity for that to occur.

Fourth, in a reversal of what had been represented to staff in earlier meetings by Lt. Gen. Wolfenbarger, it was revealed in yesterday's meeting that the two new locations for the 3-star bureaucracies had, indeed, already been selected and would be announced next week. This secretive base selection process flies in the face of the open and transparent process which had previously been used by the Air Force in basing decisions. It now appears as though these two new 3-star bureaucracy locations were pre-determined by AFMC or other top Air Force decision makers.

Finally, the three existing ALCs are among the military's most technically capable and efficient repair and sustainment organizations. Great care must be taken to ensure that they are not broken through impetuous reorganization schemes. The men and women fighting for our country deserve nothing less. While the Air Force must be allowed to reshape its organizational enterprise to adapt to new budget realities and to realize efficiencies, those plans should be developed and implemented in the open, and should be able to stand-up to audits and scrutiny in the light of day. They certainly should not be established behind the smokescreen of non-disclosure orders.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to defer approval of the AFMC plans, and defer their implementation until a sound business case analysis is completed and specific details can be reviewed by Congress and the appropriate Defense committees.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress