The Honorable Ashton Carter  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301  

Dear Secretary Carter:

I write to urge you to suspend all efforts on the development and implementation of rules and regulations at the Department of Defense that would change long-standing policy, including with regard to military personnel ratings, standards, uniforms, job titles, and related issues. Many of the Department's recent actions in this regard have been questionable and misguided, and any effort to continue in that direction during a presidential transition and lame-duck session of Congress would be inappropriate.

Military personnel policy will continue to be a priority for the defense committees during the next Congress, building on the landmark reforms that have begun over the past two years. This important, bipartisan work will proceed with the transparency, public scrutiny, and congressional oversight that it deserves. Until that time, please refrain from making and further implementing any major policy changes through executive action.

Sincerely,

John McCain  
Chairman  

cc:  
The Honorable Eric K. Fanning  
Secretary of the Army  
The Honorable Ray Mabus  
Secretary of the Navy  
The Honorable Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force