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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

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November 21, 2016

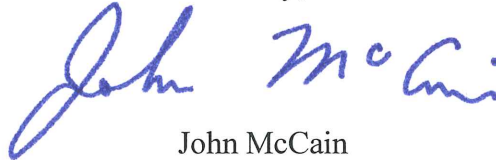
The Honorable Ashton Carter
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

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