



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

10 April 2014

The Honorable Carl M. Levin
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable D. Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairmen, Senator Inhofe and Representative Smith,

I am writing today to advise you of the FOP's continued strong support for the National Guard Bureau's (NGB) Counterdrug Program which established five Regional Counter Drug Training Academies (RCTA). Since the first one opened in 1992, nearly 700,000 State and local law enforcement officers from all 50 States received in-depth counter-narcotics training—training which has made a very real and significant impact in our national effort to stem the tide of drugs and violence in our communities.

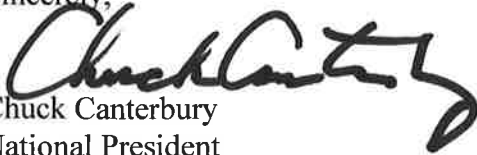
It is our understanding that the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is considering bringing this program to an end because training local and State law enforcement officers is not viewed as a core mission with respect to homeland security. The FOP strongly disagrees. The loss of this program and the invaluable training it provides will substantively weaken the ability of domestic law enforcement to effectively combat criminal organizations from continuing to penetrate our national border and smuggle drugs, weapons and individuals into our country. Terrorist organizations also make use of these smuggling networks which are primarily built, operated and maintained by drug cartels.

Our members rely on the military and civilian subject matter experts provided by DoD and NGB to teach local and State law enforcement officers courses like Advanced Undercover Operations, Advanced High Risk Warrant Planning and Execution, and Advanced Narcotics Investigations. We believe it would be counter to our homeland security efforts if these subject matter experts were no longer permitted to provide this training. More importantly, our homes, schools and communities would be less safe from the predations of organized drug dealers.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I respectfully request that the Committees on Armed Services take appropriate action to ensure that the FY12 appropriations for the DoD provide funding for the RCTAs and continue to offer critical counter-drug training to our nation's local and State law enforcement officers. This is an important and well-regarded program in the law enforcement community and has been a vital part of our national drug-fighting strategy for more than 20 years.

If I can be of any additional assistance on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,



Chuck Canterbury
National President