



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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**CHUCK CANTERBURY**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

7 October 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 Messrs. 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 is not available through any other program and which has made a very real and significant impact in our national effort to stem the tide of drugs and violence in our communities.

These academies provide training to about 100,000 officers per year in all 50 States at a cost of around \$25 million. This includes the cost of the instructors, who are experts in their fields, as well as meals and lodging for the duration of the training. Our members rely on the military and civilian subject matter experts provided by the U.S. Department of Defense (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. No other Federal department or entity has the capacity and facilities to conduct these training courses—only the NGB and U.S. Department of Defense.

For these reasons, the FOP urgently requests your support of the RCTAs and urge the Armed Services Committees that the final National Defense Authorization Act for FY15 retain in conference the language concerning this program as found in Section 1014 of H.R. 4435. We believe it would be counter to our homeland security efforts if the RCTAs were no longer able to provide this training. Additionally, 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 ensure that the FY15 appropriations for the DoD provide funding for the RCTAs to 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.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this issue. 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