



March 28, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Visclosky,

As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year 2018 defense appropriations legislation, the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), and the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) urges you to consider the following requests:


- **The National Guard Counterdrug Program:** \$300 million
- **National Guard Counterdrug Training Centers:** \$40 million

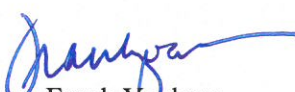
Created in 1989, the Counterdrug Program provides linguists, criminal analysts, communications, transportation, cannabis suppression, and ground and aerial reconnaissance to support law enforcement activities. Additionally, five National Guard Counterdrug Training Centers across the country provide training for criminal justice professionals and community leaders to prevent and combat drug-related crimes, along with transnational threat networks.


Sustained Congressional support is vital for this program to continue to help communities rid their neighborhoods of drugs and drug violence. The illicit drug trade is a threat to the health of our communities, as well as our national security, and the National Guard is uniquely positioned to apply military-specific skill sets to disrupt the supply, demand, and cross-border trade in illicit drugs.

We thank this Committee for its continued support of the National Guard Counterdrug Program and, as always, for our National Guard.

Sincerely,


Roy Robinson
Brigadier General (Ret)
President, NGAUS


Frank Yoakum
Sergeant Major (Ret)
Executive Director, EANGUS


Jeffrey Phillips
Major General (Ret)
Executive Director, ROA