



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND

Reply To:  
USSTRATCOM/J0CC  
900 SAC BLVD STE N3.100K  
OFFUTT AFB NE 68113-6000

4 Apr 22  
SM# 1028-22

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Reference: PL114-328 FY17 NDAA, Section 1064(a): Annual Reports on Unfunded Priorities of the Armed Forces and the Combatant Commands and Annual Report on Combatant Command Requirements

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on United States Strategic Command's (USSTRATCOM) unfunded requirements. For Fiscal Year 2023, USSTRATCOM does not have any unfunded requirements to provide for your consideration.

USSTRATCOM fully participated in the Department of Defense's (DoD) development of the President's Budget. The Department made extensive efforts to comprehensively assess, prioritize, and balance capacity, capability, and readiness across the Joint Force. I am satisfied USSTRATCOM priorities for nuclear modernization, nuclear command and control, and reducing transition risk are adequately addressed in the DoD's portion of the President's Budget. However, I do want to emphasize these efforts are the minimum essential to remain able and ready to deter and prevail against the unprecedented challenges and threats our Nation faces today.

While I am satisfied USSTRATCOM priorities are adequately addressed, the current situation in Ukraine and China's nuclear trajectory convinces me a deterrence and assurance gap exists. To address this gap, a low-yield, non-ballistic capability to deter and respond without visible generation is necessary to provide a persistent, survivable, regional capability to deter adversaries, assure Allies, provide flexible options, as well as complement existing capabilities. I believe a capability with these attributes should be re-examined in the near future.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of the stability gained by on-time passage of the Defense Appropriations Bill. Many strategic deterrence programs involve just-in-time fielding and, in some cases, are already arguably late-to-need. Any disruptions to programmed funding will delay mission-critical modernization and increase strategic risk to the Nation. To that end, I respectfully request your continued support for on-time, long-term funding stability for the nuclear enterprise.

I appreciate your continued leadership and support to the Nation's defense, especially your support of the men and women who serve our country in and out of uniform, and for responding to the unique challenges we face.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Richard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

CHARLES A. RICHARD  
Admiral, United States Navy  
Commander

cc:

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers  
Ranking Member



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Ranking Member  
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U.S. House of Representatives  
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CHARLES A. RICHARD  
Admiral, United States Navy  
Commander

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The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman