

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2018

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith,

As you prepare the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, we urge you to include language authorizing the establishment of Senior Military College Cyber Institutes.

Our nation's six Senior Military Colleges (SMCs) partner with the Department of Defense to produce officers for all military services, including active duty and reserve components. These institutions make critical contributions to our security at state and national levels by preparing future officers to serve in our Armed Forces.

Our nation's foreign adversaries have launched cyber-attacks to harm American businesses and have increasingly improved their cyber capabilities as part of their mission to promote chaos and destruction internationally. Recognizing the need to equip leaders to defend American interests in the cyber domain, SMCs have created programs to help fill critical skills gaps among our service members. Five of the six SMCs are designated National Centers of Academic Excellence for Cyber Defense, and two of the six are designated as Centers of Academic Excellence for Cyber Offense by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security.

To ensure the continued success of SMCs in strengthening America's cyber defense structures, we strongly urge you to authorize the establishment of SMC Cyber Institutes. These institutes will deepen the cyber expertise of future military and civilian leaders. Additionally, the SMC Cyber Institutes will complement the service academies' cyber missions by expanding the capacity and scope of their offerings to include graduate education, strategic foreign languages, international partnerships, research, and the development of active and reserve component officers. Reserve officers will help fill the acute shortage of cyber leader positions in corporate, state, federal, and non-governmental entities.

Last year, this chamber recognized the importance of bolstering our nation's cyber presence and resilience through Senior Military College Cyber Institutes, including language authorizing their creation in the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. We thank you for considering including language to authorize Senior Military College Cyber Institutes for Fiscal Year 2019.

Sincerely,



Doug Collins
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop Jr.

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Jody Hice

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen

Rick W. Allen
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Tom Graves

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Rob Woodall

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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

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Karen Handel

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David Scott

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Barry Loudermilk

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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter

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