



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1100 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1100

COMPTROLLER

The Honorable Tim Huelskamp  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

APR 11 2012

Dear Representative Huelskamp:

Thank you for your letter requesting additional information about planning for budget sequestration in the Department of Defense. The Secretary asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Department is not planning for a sequester at this time. Nor are we formulating contingency plans. For this reason there are no notes or memoranda regarding such plans.

As the Secretary has often stated, reductions of the magnitude imposed by sequester, coupled with the manner in which we would have to impose them in FY 2013, would be devastating to national security. The sequester mandated by Title III of the Budget Control Act is not meant to be a policy that we implement. Rather, it is designed to create a powerful incentive for Congress to pass a large, balanced deficit reduction package. The President's deficit reduction plan is such a program. If enacted, it would more than meet the deficit reduction target in Title III, allowing Congress to enact legislation halting sequester.

The Secretary is committed both to maintaining a superior military and helping achieve the deficit reduction needed to ensure the long-term security of the United States. We look forward to continuing to work with the Congress as we seek to meet these goals in a responsible way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert F. Hale".

Robert F. Hale

