



American Veterans



Disabled American Veterans

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December 11, 2014

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

When we last met on October 31, 2014, we voiced three primary concerns regarding the ongoing reorganization of the POW/MIA accounting community: the lack of transparency, the absence of senior military involvement in the process, and our belief that a military veteran should be named the Interim and Permanent Director of the new agency.

After you departed the meeting, the new Under Secretary for Policy said she would need two weeks to review the situation, and then would get back to us about our concerns. Now six weeks later, we are still waiting. Meanwhile, the DOD-only working groups and those on the groups continue to remain cloaked in secrecy. The only non-secret is how employee morale continues to plummet throughout the experienced workforce of DPMO, JPAC and elsewhere due to the total disregard of their opinions by the current PACT leadership.

Mr. Secretary, we write this letter out of total frustration, and are now considering withdrawing our support for reorganizing the POW/MIA accounting community. We have the highest respect for you and your commitment to the mission, but we truly believe those below you do not share that same level of commitment — not for the missing, the fallen or for their families.

We ask you to instruct the Under Secretary for Policy to make this process open and transparent, and for her to meet on a regular basis with us and others involved in this mission. We also urge you to appoint a senior military leader to be involved in the daily process, and to appoint a veteran as the Interim and Permanent Director of the new agency.

We are available to meet with you and discuss in detail the concerns we have mentioned above, as well as other concerns about the workings of the PACT. We all want this reorganization to be successful and the mission strengthened, but excluding dedicated rank-and-file employees from the conversation, as well as MIA family and veterans' organizations, is a recipe for failure.

Respectfully,

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