



June 1, 2018

Honorable Patrick M. Shanahan
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Shanahan:

Thank you again for your enduring commitment to the Council of Governors and for your time on May 24th for a discussion on current matters of concern to the Department and Council governors. In particular, we appreciate your continued focus to, where possible, address, by our July plenary session, impediments to the possible use of National Guard personnel in Title 32 502(f) status in response to a catastrophic disaster under a presidential disaster declaration.

As we addressed during the February plenary session and again on our call last week, governors continue to be concerned over the lack of a formal process or mechanism to request the activation of our National Guard under Title 32 in response to catastrophic disasters. At your request, we have developed a hypothetical scenario during which a governor(s) might request 502(f) activation to support a disaster response. It is our hope this will inform the work of the staff working group charged with addressing, this issue first and foremost.

To that end, we hope to answer by July:

1. What is the process for governors to request Title 32 in support of domestic response operations?
2. Who is the approval authority?
3. What is the expected timeline for a response to a request for Title 32?
4. If there are policy or statutory impediments to utilizing Guard personnel in Title 32 status, what are they?

We look forward to making progress on this issue and welcome your suggestion of a call among the three of us before the July plenary meeting. Again, we're grateful for your leadership and commitment to this process and reiterate our commitment to work with you and your team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mary Fallin'.

Governor Mary Fallin
Governor of Oklahoma
Co-Chair, Council of Governors

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dannel Malloy'.

Governor Dannel Malloy
Governor of Connecticut
Co-Chair, Council of Governors