



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

JAN 29 2013

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Delegate Sablan:

This responds to your January 9, 2013, letter to Secretary Panetta in which you asked the Department of Defense to ensure that section 588 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 is implemented. The matter of protocol at Service graduation ceremonies falls under my purview and I have been asked to respond.

As outlined in our August 28, 2012, letter to Representative Norton, my office sent a memorandum to the Secretaries of the Military Departments encouraging each to be mindful of the home states, districts, and territories of each of their members, and where appropriate, display all the state and territorial flags to honor the brave men and women who answer their Nation's call to duty. I am pleased to advise that this request has been honored. Through your efforts, as well of other members on Congress, this policy is now codified in section 588 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. Accordingly, I have issued a policy memorandum to the Secretaries of the Military Departments directing that they comply with the provisions of the law and that the statutory requirements be incorporated into Service regulations and policies as soon as is practicable.

We appreciate your interest in and continued support for the men and women of our Armed Forces. We have sent a similar response to the other signatories of your letter.

Sincerely,

  
Jessica L. Wright  
Acting