

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of War
By e-mail

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Reserve Organization of America (ROA), I write to express our appreciation for your remarks before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on May 12, in which you indicated that the Department is taking a second look at elements of the Army Transformation Initiative (ATI), including reductions to Army aviation. We are grateful for your willingness to revisit decisions whose downstream consequences warrant further examination, and we respectfully ask that the Department's review include the decision to divest from Army Reserve medical evacuation capability and, ultimately, that the Department reverse course by restoring that capability.

Large Scale Combat Operations will generate casualties at a pace that can quickly erode combat power. As wounded personnel accumulate, units lose tempo, mobility, and cohesion. Dedicated MEDEVAC is not a discretionary capability; it is central to force preservation and regeneration.

The Army serves as the Joint Force's intra-theater MEDEVAC lead and fields the only purpose-built aircraft and crews organized, trained, and equipped specifically for medical evacuation. MEDEVAC and casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) are not interchangeable. MEDEVAC provides protected movement with clinically supervised en route care under medical authority. CASEVAC does not. Absorbing MEDEVAC into general-purpose aviation risks diluting specialized training, weakening medical command relationships, and substituting expediency for doctrine.

Continuing the divestment would degrade Joint Force readiness at precisely the moment the 2026 National Defense Strategy directs the Department to deter China in the Indo-Pacific and defend the U.S. Homeland.

ROA stands ready to support the Department's review and would welcome the opportunity to engage with you or your staff further. Restoring Army Reserve MEDEVAC capability would be a clear and consequential expression of the openness you signaled before the committee, and it would send an unmistakable signal that the Department values every component of the Joint Force's lifesaving mission.

Sincerely,



John B. Hashem
Maj. Gen., U.S. Army (Ret.)
Chief Executive Officer