

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2010

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Dirksen Office Building
Room 122
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Dirksen Office Building
Room 122
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inouye and Senator Cochran:

As the Appropriations Committee begins consideration of the supplemental, I request your support for \$45 million to resource an operational need statement (ONS) from the 1/25 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) for the Land Warrior system.

As you know, in February 2007, the Department of Defense announced the cancellation of the Land Warrior system. The next generation system will not be fielded until late Fiscal Year 2012. As a bridge strategy, the Department of the Army (DOA) is fulfilling the requirement for this capability with Land Warrior systems through the ONS process.

The 1/25 SBCT is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in summer 2011. In preparation for this deployment, the 1/25 SBCT submitted an ONS for Land Warrior systems in March 2010. Although this ONS has not yet been validated by DOA, in meetings with my staff Army officials have indicated they intend to fulfill the ONS once validated. However, in order to resource the ONS, the Army will require \$16 million to procure 208 training systems and \$29 million for training, refurbishment of existing systems, and support for the 1/25 SBCT during deployment. At this time, a funding strategy for this effort has not yet been identified.

Procurement of 208 Land Warrior systems will take approximately 5-6 months. Timely funding for procurement of these systems is vital as the 1/25 SBCT will participate in its Mission Rehearsal Exercise in the January timeframe. Additionally, procurement of the training systems will allow the Land Warrior system to be available for other SBCTs as they prepare for deployment. Currently there are no training sets in the United States. Training prior to utilizing the system in theater is essential for a ready force. Funding for Land Warrior training, refurbishment of existing equipment and support in theater for the 1/25 SBCT is necessary to provide the capability for situational awareness, navigation, and preventing fratricide.

Senators Inouye and Cochran

May 13, 2010

Page 2

I certify that neither my immediate family nor I have a pecuniary interest, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, in this congressionally directed spending item.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and applaud your support of our service men and women. If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Kavanaugh or Glenn Johnson of my staff at (202) 224-3004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Begich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mark Begich
United States Senator