



NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND
BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3050 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3050

Mr. Brad Fallon, Deputy Legislative Officer
Executive Office of the Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Fallon,

As the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control, I oversee the U.S. Chemical Demilitarization Program as well as several portfolios that sponsor technology development at our nation's center for chemical and biological weapons defense research and development, the U.S. Army's Chemical and Biological Center (CBC) at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland. The Department of Defense (DoD) considers the acceleration of research, development, prototyping, and testing to be a national defense priority and critical to the protection of our warfighters.

Adversaries such as North Korea, Russia, Iran, and China are only becoming more brazen in their development and use of WMD. The DoD must develop and field technologies that protect our troops from these weapons and give them the ability to defeat, disable or destroy them before they can be used against us or our allies.

The CBC possesses unique engineering expertise to accelerate the design, testing, prototyping, and fielding of chemical agent destruction solutions needed by our warfighters. They have robust test facilities and environmental and safety programs. They also have a long and demonstrated history of performing safe and environmentally compliant chemical weapons-related research and development. Importantly, APG hosts a unique national asset: the nation's treaty-designated single small-scale facility. As such, APG is the only place in the country where we can fabricate and store chemical agents at the quantities needed for defense research, development, and testing.

The CBC routinely develops and tests new thermal destruction technologies to support warfighter needs to destroy chemical and biological agents in tactical environments. It is critical that we maintain the ability to perform needed research, development, prototyping, and testing in support of defense and counterproliferation priorities. I appreciate your support to ensure this unique and critically important capability is sustained at APG.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kingston Reif".

Kingston Reif

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Threat Reduction and Arms Control

cc:

The Honorable Serena Coleman McIlwain

Maryland Secretary of the Environment

The Honorable Kevin A. Anderson

Maryland Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Anthony C. Woods

Maryland Secretary of Veterans & Military Families

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman

Chairman of Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

The Honorable Marc A. Korman

Chairman of Environment and Transportation Committee

Mr. Tom Albro

Chairman, Maryland Defense Research Coalition

Mr. Bryson F. Popham

Army Alliance