THE JOINT STAFF
WASHINGTON, DC

15 January 2016

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pompeo:

Thank you for your letter cosigned by 15 other U.S. Representatives regarding the disposition of detainees currently held at the U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. I am responding on behalf of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As the President has stated, closing the Guantanamo detention facility is a national security imperative. The continued operation of Guantanamo weakens our national security by draining resources, damaging our relationship with key allies and partners, and emboldening violent extremists. The Joint Chiefs of Staff support the President's commitment to a responsible end to holding detainees at Guantanamo.

Current law prohibits the use of funds to "transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release" of detainees from Guantanamo Bay to or within the United States and prohibits the construction, modification, or acquisition of any facility in the United States to house any Guantanamo detainee. The Joint Staff will not take any action contrary to those restrictions.

I appreciate your continued support of our men and women in uniform. A similar letter has been sent to the other signatories of your letter.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM C. MAYVILLE, JR.
LTG, USA
Director, Joint Staff