



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON  
JAN 05 2015

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

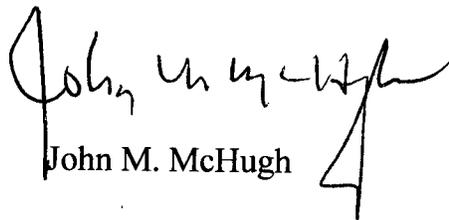
Thank you for your November 19, 2014 letter expressing your concern over the retirement grade of certain officers selected by the Army's Enhanced-Selective Early Retirement Boards.

I heartily share your concern regarding those officers without the amount of active commissioned service required to retire as an officer who were informed they must retire in their previous enlisted grade. I am pleased to inform you that – in accordance with the authority granted to me under federal law and in coordination with the Director, Joint Staff and the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness – I have waived the minimum requirement for these officers, allowing them to retire as officers without regard to the number of years they have in active commissioned service.

I have directed the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 to ensure each affected officer is notified of his or her eligibility to retire as an officer. These notifications are presently underway and all notifications should be complete before December 25, 2014.

I greatly appreciate your interest and support as we make the difficult choices required to shape our force to meet both constrained budgets and emerging missions.

Sincerely,

  
John M. McHugh