

To the Men and Women of the United States Air Force:

Once again, we find ourselves in the position where we need to talk with you about the potential disruption to your personal and professional lives.

While we remain hopeful that a government shutdown will be averted, the Department of Defense is planning for an orderly shutdown if a federal funding bill is not passed before 1 October.

This means that some civilians will be furloughed and military pay may be disrupted. This will be extremely disruptive to the mission, to you, and to your families.

The Air Force must continue to conduct missions in support of our National security, particularly urgent operational activities. Should there be a government shutdown, military will continue to report to duty and most civilians will be furloughed, with some exceptions. Those details will become clear in the coming days along with specific guidance on the Guard and Reserve workforces.

The entire Air Force leadership is working hard to guide us through this turbulent time. Have no doubt; we are concerned about you and your families. We will be providing further information to your supervisors and commanders so they can communicate with you on where to go for assistance should you and your families require it. We encourage you to review the current information that can be found on our official Air Force website and the United States Office of Personnel Management website.

It is important for you to know that a furlough says nothing about the quality of your work or the value of your service. We know the continuing budget uncertainty is distressing, and we are hopeful for a swift resolution.

Your professionalism and commitment to mission makes us the world's greatest Air Force. Thank you for your continued service to secure the nation's security in very uncertain and challenging times.

Eric K. Fanning
Acting Secretary

Mark A. Welsh III
General, USAF
Chief of Staff of the Air Force

James A. Cody
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

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