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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

ELIZABETH L. KING, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOHN D. WASON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 30, 2021

General Charles Q. Brown, Jr.
Air Force Chief of Staff
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear General Brown:

As Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I request your personal views and best military advice on the attached draft bill, "Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act of 2021," and the likely effects on the United States Air Force were it enacted in law.

Please respond to me in writing not later than May 17, 2021. I ask that your response address the following matters, and that it appropriately explains your personal views and advice on each.

- The effects of the bill, if enacted, on military readiness and mission accomplishment, including, without limitation, your views as to whether the bill would strengthen or weaken our Air Force.
- The effects of the bill, if enacted, on good order and discipline in the Air Force, including, without limitation, its effect on Air Force commanders' acceptance and exercise of responsibility for the prevention of and response to Airman misconduct.
- The extent to which the bill, if enacted, would promote the interests of justice in the Air Force, including, without limitation, whether it would decrease the number of sexual assaults and increase accountability for perpetrators of sexual assault.
- The effects of the bill, if enacted, on the relationship between Air Force commanders and the Airmen they lead, including, without limitation, its effects on the bonds of duty, trust, and loyalty between commanders and their Airmen, and commanders' ability to set and influence command climate.
- The effects of the bill, if enacted, on the exercise and practice of military command in both war and peace, including, without limitation, on the philosophy of mission command, and the command ethos of martial behavior, such as risk taking in combat.
- Any other matter you deem appropriate.

This request is made pursuant to your commitments—in written response to advance policy questions as well as verbal affirmation during the May 7, 2020, hearing on your nomination to be Air Force Chief of Staff—to provide this Committee your personal views, even if those views differ from the position of the Administration.

Consideration by the U.S. Congress of such a momentous change to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and more importantly to the very nature of military command—that which makes our Air Force the very best in the world—merits this extraordinary request. I believe it essential to document your personal views and advice on this matter in the record of the United States Senate and in the annals of history.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member