



3690 West Gandy Blvd #140, Tampa, Florida 33611
gsof.org

April 17, 2020

Re: Armed Overwatch Program

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services
Russell Senate Building, Room 228
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services
Russell Senate Building, Room 228
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sirs:

The Global SOF Foundation (GSF) is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit that is a professional association for the international Special Operation Forces (SOF) community. On behalf of the GSF, I am writing to solicit your support for the Armed Overwatch Program being sought by U.S. Special Operations Command.

Throughout the Cold War, SOF was consistently deployed to remote and austere locations to support our partners in their fight against malign influences. After 9/11, SOF shifted gears to counterterrorism operations, and for close to two decades, SOF has carried a heavy burden. With the recent shift to great power competition, SOF will remain decisively engaged around the world in small teams, but there remains a critical operational shortfall: an armed overwatch capability.

Russian, Chinese and Iranian doctrine is founded on fighting in the grey zone to avoid major theater operations. This is because our nation is exceptional at developing large conventional platforms with tremendous capability. But none of the existing aviation platforms in our arsenal can provide the consistent support that our SOF teams need in austere conditions.

Attached is a white paper on armed overwatch. We respectfully request your support in providing this capability to our most deployed forces. Help us protect these elite warriors that selflessly serve this great Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart W. Bradin".

Stuart W. Bradin
President and CEO

CC: Senator Joni Ernst; Senator Gary Peters; Representative Jim Langevin; Representative Elise Stefanik