



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

21 May 1999

Dear Commander Shay,

Thank you for your thoughtful and insightful letter regarding my State of the Navy address at the U.S. Naval Institute on April 21, 1999. Your words of caution, conveyed from your own experience, were relevant and thought provoking.

As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I assure you that Rules of Engagement, including those pertaining to aviation, are constantly under review. Every attempt to prevent non-military engagement is made by not only Naval Aviators, but also NATO combat pilots. It is inherent in the training of U.S. military aviators that all precautions are taken to prevent loss of innocent life.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your service to our country. Without dedicated and courageous patriots such as yourself, America would not be the great country it is today.

Sincerely,

JAY E. JOHNSON  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Commander Peter D. Shay, USNR (Ret.)

*I can assure you that our Navy  
pilots are being patient when they  
working targets in hostile territory  
Thanks for caring!*