



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301

JUL 16 1999

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN(Ret.)
1000 Wilson Blvd, Suite 3105
Arlington, VA 22209-3909

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of June 2, 1999. I appreciate your candid comments and share your concerns about the impact of current global security commitments on our armed forces.

It is my stated goal to ensure we maintain the strongest Navy in the world. Recent events have once again validated the necessity of this. The Navy Department has articulated a position similar to that in your letter. I intend to continue working closely with the Navy and all the services, as well as the Congress, to address the requirements to fulfill our national security strategy. Key to this is to assess the primary factors and assumptions as we prepare for the next Quadrennial Defense Review in 2001. As you noted, central to this effort is to take advantage of the netted technology available in the new century. At the same time we measure the value and effectiveness of new technologies, we will determine what is required in the short term to ensure we do not stretch our forces too thin.

Again, I appreciate your recommendation and observations. They are helpful as we prepare for the next budget cycle. Thanks again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gill".

