

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERY, TEXAS, CHAIRMAN  
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA  
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
FRANK A. LOBIONDO, NEW JERSEY  
ROB BISHOP, UTAH  
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO  
MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA  
BILL SHUSTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS  
DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO  
ROBERT J. WITTMAN, VIRGINIA  
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA  
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO  
VICKY HARTZLER, MISSOURI  
AUSTIN SCOTT, GEORGIA  
MO BROOKS, ALABAMA  
PAUL COOK, CALIFORNIA  
JIM BRIDENSTINE, OKLAHOMA  
BRAD R. WENSTRUP, OHIO  
BRADLEY BYRNE, ALABAMA  
SAM GRAVES, MISSOURI  
ELISE M. STEFANIK, NEW YORK  
MARTHA McSALLY, ARIZONA  
STEPHEN KNIGHT, CALIFORNIA  
STEVE RUSSELL, OKLAHOMA  
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, TENNESSEE  
RALPH LEE ABRAHAM, LOUISIANA  
TRENT KELLY, MISSISSIPPI  
MIKE GALLAGHER, WISCONSIN  
MATT GAETZ, FLORIDA  
DON BACON, NEBRASKA  
JIM BANKS, INDIANA  
LIZ CHENEY, WYOMING  
JODY B. HICE, GEORGIA

## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON, RANKING MEMBER  
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA  
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA  
JAMES R. LANGEVIN, RHODE ISLAND  
RICK LARSEN, WASHINGTON  
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE  
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GUAM  
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT  
NIKI TSONGAS, MASSACHUSETTS  
JOHN GARAMENDI, CALIFORNIA  
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA  
MARC A. VEASEY, TEXAS  
TULSI GABBARD, HAWAII  
BETO O'ROURKE, TEXAS  
DONALD NORCROSS, NEW JERSEY  
RUBEN GALLEGOS, ARIZONA  
SETH MOULTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
COLLEEN HANABUSA, HAWAII  
CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
JACKY ROSEN, NEVADA  
A. DONALD McEACHIN, VIRGINIA  
SALUD O. CARBAJAL, CALIFORNIA  
ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND  
STEPHANIE N. MURPHY, FLORIDA  
RO KHANNA, CALIFORNIA  
TOM O'HALLERAN, ARIZONA  
THOMAS R. SUOZZI, NEW YORK  
JIMMY PANETTA, CALIFORNIA

JENNIFER M. STEWART, STAFF DIRECTOR

June 14, 2018

The Honorable James Mattis  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Mattis:

We write regarding the summit between President Trump and Kim Jong-un, and the broad framework that was agreed upon for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program. We appreciate the President's efforts to achieve a diplomatic solution to threats posed by North Korea's nuclear program, and we hope that these efforts will lead to a long-term solution and peace in the Asia-Pacific region.


However, we do request that you provide clarity on the President's intention to suspend defensive military exercises with our South Korean allies.

The exercises that the United States conducts with allies and partners on and around the Korean Peninsula are invaluable tools for maintaining the readiness to respond to potential North Korean aggression. We are concerned that the decision to suspend military exercises was made without consulting the government of South Korea and without providing corresponding guidance to United States Forces Korea. Furthermore, we are concerned that suspending these exercises could negatively impact the close relationships, readiness, and interoperability forged between our military forces.

While we hope diplomatic solutions can be found to the situation on the Korean Peninsula, we trust that you will work to ensure that the readiness and forward posture of our military forces in the Asia-Pacific region are fully considered before any decisions are implemented.

  
Adam Smith  
Ranking Member

Sincerely,

  
Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Readiness