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**HOMELAND DEFENSE &
GLOBAL SECURITY**

DEC 3 2018

**The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
U. S. House of Representatives
H-209, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Mr. Speaker:

This letter is intended to serve as the report on the ongoing U.S. Government recovery effort of Hurricane Maria requested by House Report 115-676, which accompanied H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

The Department of Defense (DoD) response to the 2017 hurricane season was the largest, most complex, domestic deployment of responders in recent history. DoD deployed more personnel, flew more sorties, engaged the largest flotilla of ships, and procured and delivered more relief supplies than, ever before in a domestic mission.

In support of the Federal Government's response, which was coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), DoD provided significant support to the national response to Hurricane Maria to save and sustain lives in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Commander, U.S. Northern Command, using her delegated authorities, postured DoD capabilities in advance of the hurricane, including pre-staging assets and personnel, to perform such response missions as aerial damage assessment, strategic and tactical lift, medical, logistics, and air and sea port opening. After Hurricane Maria's landfall, DoD conducted search, rescue, and evacuation operations; provided damage assessments; assessed and made repairs to open airports and sea ports; performed air traffic control; cleared roads; transported life-sustaining commodities such as food and water (including by helicopter and tactical vehicle in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands); provided power generation and fuel distribution; conducted flood mitigation operations; provided temporary housing support; conducted assessments of civilian hospitals; and provided medical support, including evacuating patients back to the continental United States.

As described in the National Disaster Recovery Framework, local, State and Tribal governments have primary responsibility for the recovery of their communities, and play the lead role in planning for and managing all aspects of community recovery. The Federal Government is a partner and facilitator in recovery and is prepared to support local, State and Tribal governments vigorously in a large-scale disaster or catastrophic incident. By law, FEMA provides the Federal leadership and coordination necessary to recover from disasters. As such, FEMA maintains its role as the lead agency for the ongoing U.S. Government recovery effort of Hurricane Maria.

In response to the specific inquiries about the U.S. Government recovery effort of Hurricane Maria:

Statistics on ongoing power outages. As of October 23, 2018, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority reported that the Puerto Rico grid is at 100 percent of pre-storm load and 100 percent of power has been restored to connected meters.

The number of deaths in each U.S. state or territory affected. DoD tracks DoD personnel and dependent fatalities; DoD does not track non-DoD fatalities. According to DoD's records, there were no DoD personnel or dependent fatalities resulting from Hurricane Maria. Official fatality numbers for disasters are determined by the States and territories. Accordingly, DoD respectfully defers to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands regarding their fatality estimates.

Measures to improve hurricane emergency response plans for insular areas and/or territories of the United States. FEMA is the Federal agency responsible for the Federal Government's emergency response plan and for assisting State, local, and tribal governments emergency response planning. Based on lessons learned from the 2017 hurricane season, FEMA intends to revise the current National Response Framework and, as required, the Response Federal Interagency Operational Plan. To prepare for the 2018 hurricane season, FEMA updated hurricane plans, annexes, and procedures for the States and territories. Also, FEMA is placing its personnel in State emergency management offices to plan jointly with States and territories and to help States and territories increase their planning capabilities.

As requested, DoD collaborated with the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA in the development of this report.

Thank you for your continued support of the U.S. Armed Forces. A similar letter will be sent to the President of the Senate and the congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,



Kenneth P. Rapuano

Preparation of this report cost DoD a total of approximately \$2,830 in Fiscal Year 2018 (Generated on August 14, 2018; RefID: E-DAA5F91)