



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

DEC 15 2011

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

Thank you for the December 8, 2011 letter to Secretary Panetta, requesting the Department postpone the January 1, 2012 deadline for signing the DoD Tuition Assistance Memorandum of Understanding. The Secretary of Defense has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Given the concerns expressed by you and other members of Congress, the Department has decided to extend the memorandum of understanding deadline 90-days later until March 30, 2012. The extension will permit the Department to work with Congress and other key stakeholders to address their concerns and ensure our Service members are afforded the widest variety of choices for their continued education. We believe the extension will improve this process and the memorandum of understanding.

I appreciate your steadfast commitment to improving the educational opportunities of our Service members, and I am convinced that the work to be conducted over the next 90 days will further strengthen the commitment of all stakeholders in accommodating the unique educational requirements of our military students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Rooney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting