



RESERVE AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1500

December 13, 2007

Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum, USA
Chief, National Guard Bureau
The Pentagon, Room 2A514B
Washington, DC 20301-2500

Dear General Blum:

Congratulations to you and the men and women of the Army and Air National Guard on this 371st anniversary of the beginning of America's militia tradition. Today's Guardsmen are the continuation of the Minute Man spirit that has defended our citizens and way of life. Guardsmen have earned the respect of their fellow Americans by performing above and beyond the call of duty.

Over 458,000 soldiers and airman of the Guard serve worldwide as integral components of the Total Force and are supporting the National Security Strategy. Men and women of the Guard are serving today around the globe, from Central America to the Middle East and the Far East. Whether the requirement is local or global, the National Guard is always ready to provide extraordinary service to the Nation.

On behalf of the Department of Defense, please extend to your soldiers and airmen and women my thanks and appreciation for their continued service. Happy birthday!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. F. Hall".

T. F. Hall

